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GOODBYE, GOV. INOS

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The late governor Eloy Songao Inos was laid to rest yesterday, Jan. 12, at the Chalan Kanoa cemetery after a day of mourning and final tribute at the Mount Carmel Cathedral.

» Commonwealth bids farewell at funeral

The Commonwealth bid farewell to the only governor to have passed away while in office. Inos died last Dec. 29 due to complications from diabetes. He was 66.

Inos' funeral took place exactly a year after he was sworn in as governor last year January. Those who paid tribute yesterday remembered his kindness, generosity, and desire to learn, listen, and work tirelessly to make the Commonwealth a better place to live, now and for future generations.

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REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

■ The two lines for the viewing of the beloved late governor Eloy S. Inos was already long at around 10:30am. People from all walks of life took time to pay their respects and say goodbye to the former leader of the Commonwealth who served the people of the Northern Marianas until his last breath. Some wore coat and tie, some were in traditional clothes, and even a couple wore island outfits, but all were united in grief.

■ Inside the church, dozens of crowns of flowers in every color and kind decorated the church. The flowers—coming from various government departments, organizations, companies, and individuals—lined the walls, the back and the front. One read: "The governor was a great leader and will be missed."

■ It took us about 45 minutes to finally see the governor's remains. I've only known the governor less than a year, but I was already touched by his kindness and warmth. He looked different from the jolly grandfather-like figure I always see him as, but nevertheless he seemed at peace, surrounded by his loved ones and finally at rest.

■ Even at lunchtime, people were still coming in to bid the late gover-

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Fr. James Balajadia says the final benediction and prayers, while police officers stand at attention over the late governor Eloy S. Inos' coffin at the Chalan Kanoa cemetery yesterday during Inos funeral.

DENNIS B. CHAN

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Delegate Kilili C. Sablan inspects the USCIS' California Service Center.

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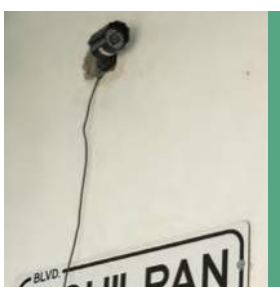

WORLD

The apparent easing of security led to drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman's recapture.

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'David Bowie showed this queer kid from Baton Rouge that gender outlaws are cool.'

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Local

CW permit delays affect renewal, hiring of nurses

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

The delay in the processing of Commonwealth-only work permits has affected some nurses at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Already short-staffed units such as the pediatric unit and the medical-surgical unit were reduced further by one nurse each as their CW-1 permits have yet to be released.

According to CHC director of nursing Leslie B. Camacho, the two nurses have already stopped working.

"We do feel it with the shortage of staff anyway on those particular units, but it's definitely not as dramatic as other companies or corporations," Camacho said in an interview.

"It hasn't affected us too badly. Not until the big group that's going to be in the summer," she added.

Camacho said a bigger batch of nurses would be requiring CW renewals around July of this year.

The hospital has about 152 nurses, more than 80 percent or about 127 of which are foreign workers.

Camacho said they are already working on the renewals of the next batch even earlier than the prescribed 90 days in advance.

"We're doing it in advance to try and prevent delays if at all possible," Camacho said.

Up to 8 months

Aside from renewals, the hospital is also having a hard time with their petitions for new hires.

Since last year, they have been working on nine petitions for nurses from the Philippines and haven't been successful in any of them yet.

Camacho said all the requirements for hiring the nurses—including NCLEX and CNMI nursing license, which take some time to be processed as well—have already been met and only U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services process is hindering these nurses from coming to the island.

"It's just the USCIS. We won't recommend hiring without the NCLEX and current CNMI nursing license," Camacho said.

The nursing director noted that the petition process usually takes them about five to eight months.

"It's a very lengthy process so by the time they get here it's already almost due for renewal. It's a bit challenging," Camacho said.

CUC, 18 CW-1 workers withdraw motion for injunctive relief vs USCIS

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and 18 of its foreign workers are withdrawing their motion for injunctive relief against federal officials over the delayed renewal of their Commonwealth-only worker, or CW-1 permits.

CUC and the 18 foreign workers, through counsel James S. Sirok, filed on Monday in federal court a notice of withdrawal of their motion for injunctive relief. They asked the court to vacate the hearing on the matter set for Jan. 21.

When asked to clarify their notice of withdrawal, Sirok said yesterday that the case is not dismissed because he only withdrew the motion for injunctive relief as it is no longer needed.

Sirok said their request was based on their need for immediate and preliminary injunctive relief related to the CW-1 workers' ability to work for CUC during the pendency of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' review of their CW-1 petitions for the renewal of their CW-1 statuses.

Sirok said the plaintiffs no longer need this injunctive relief.

Sirok told the court that Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Charles Johnson and his co-defendants, through their respective counsels, have informed CUC and the CW-1 workers that they do not object to the withdrawal of the motion and to the court vacating the hearing.

Earlier on Thursday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said the court will advance the trial on the merits and consolidate it with the hearing on the plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction on Jan. 21.

Manglona earlier denied the request of CUC and 18 of its foreign workers for a temporary restraining order that would allow these CW-1 workers to immediately return to work. She said, though, that the plaintiffs may still pursue their claim for a permanent injunction.

On Thursday, Sirok filed an amended complaint against the same defendants—Johnson, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director Sarah Saldana, and U.S. Citizenship Director Leon Rodriguez—to add a claim that plaintiffs are able to work after the expiration date of their respective authorizations so long as the authorizations remain valid in accordance with law.

Sirok said when the CW-1 petitions for the workers were approved, the CW-1 plaintiffs acquired the status of CNMI-only transitional worker for the period of time their approved petitions are valid.

Sirok said the approval of the petitions and the resulting authorized grant of CW-1 status to each of the workers is an authorization that allows each of them to enter and work in the CNMI.

The amended complaint retains the plaintiffs' two original claims—that the position of USCIS violates the Administrative Procedure Act and that the position by DHS and USCIS violates Article II, Section 3 constitutional obligation of the executive to take care that the laws are faithfully executed.

In the defendants' opposition to the TRO and injunction, the U.S. Attorney's Office said CUC filed its petitions for an extension of the workers' status only last Dec. 28—a mere three days prior to the expiration of their nonimmigrant status.

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Kilili inspects CW processing center in California

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) made a snap inspection of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service's California Service Center last Thursday. The center handles all the applications for CW foreign workers in the Northern Mariana Islands. Delays in processing there, as well as a large number of applications submitted with less than the recommended 90 days lead time, have resulted in CNMI businesses cutting hours and in lost income for employees of those businesses—both foreign and U.S. workers.

"The CW applications represent only 2 percent of the total workload of the California Service Center," Sablan said. "But what is of small importance to their overall operation is of huge importance to the people I represent in the Northern Marianas. I wanted to make that point clear by making a personal inspection of the center."

According to USCIS officials, all application for CW permits that expired on Dec. 31 have been taken out of the regular line and are being processed separately.

"The 800 applications submitted at least 90 days in advance—as recommended—have all been processed, I am told, and I expect the remaining 2,000 applications to be done by mid-January."

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) made a snap inspection of the USCIS California Service Center. The congressman said he wanted everyone to understand the harm caused by delays in the center's processing of applications for CW foreign workers. And he wanted to see for himself that extra attention was being given to the backlog.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kathy Baran, director of the California Service Center, and a team of department heads took Sablan through the center's operational process from mail intake and data entry to the office where adjudications occur.

The congressman explained to Baran and to the adjudication staff that he wanted to impress on them how important CW workers still are to the Northern Marianas economy and how disruptive the delays in processing have been.

Sablan said that, if 90 days is not sufficient lead time for the submission of renewal applications, then better guidelines need to be issued to Northern Marianas businesses.

"We cannot afford to have this kind of a back-up occur again in the future," Sablan told the USCIS staff. ***(Office of the Delegate)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CCA general membership meeting set

The Commonwealth Cancer Association is inviting the community, cancer survivors, friends, and supporters to its annual general membership meeting on Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016, at 5:30pm at the CCA conference room in Gualo Rai.

The agenda will include the president's 2015 annual report as well as the treasurer's financial report. There will also be an election of three board members. Nominations for board members will be accepted in advance via email and/or on the floor.

To submit a board nomination or for more information, contact CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(CCA)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 14, 2016, starting at 5:30pm at the Chamolinian Room of the Hyatt Regency Saipan. Guest speaker will be Dr. Tiffany Lin, department chair of Pediatrics/UCSF Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Fellow, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. She will facilitate a roundtable discussion on "how to give your past medical history to your doctor," as well as the key points that are important for survivors, and caregivers to know about the disease. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(CCA)***

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SAIPAN KENSINGTON HOTEL

CW permit delays also affecting BSI

Best Sunshine International, Ltd. is also facing the same challenges with the processing of the Commonwealth-only work permits.

According to senior vice president for operations Donald Browne, they had to notify a few of their staff that they can't report for work yet because of pending CW permits.

Although many of their foreign worker staff are just new on island and have new permits, Browne said they have some that were for renewals also.

"We have new, we have ones that have transferred, and ones that we've hired, that were on island already," Browne said.

"We face the same challenges as everybody else. It's at the forefront of our discussions every day," he added.

For new hires, Browne said they have at least 50 pending CW applications for the gaming staff.

"We haven't been fortunate to have any done in 90 days, to be honest with you. One hundred twenty days seem to be a more…from beginning to end, 120 days," Browne said.

BSI would need to bring in more staff as they intend to open December this year.

"We're doing the best we can to train U.S. people here on island to perform those duties but we just have so many positions and we're going to have 1,500 or 2,000 more in the year," Browne said.

He added that it's going to be a mix of local and foreign workers but they can't train everyone to fill those positions.

"We can't train that many," Browne said. "We're going to train as many as we can, get them in the field here."

Aside from the staff, BSI would need about 2,000 workers for the construction and completion of the upcoming Grand Mariana Casino & Hotel Resort at the Garapan site.

"At some point, we're going to need about 2,000 construction workers," Browne said.

"To finish work, we're going to need a lot more. Right now, because it's just pile driving…it's not full force. When we do the frame structure, that's when we bring in full workers," he added.

When asked where they will get the workers, Browne said they will bring in from wherever they can.

"We will get bodies from wherever we can. We're going to get many locals," Browne said. "Hopefully we can get local people trained in the construction field as well." ***(Frauleine Villanueva-Dizon)***

INOS

From Page 1

At around 7:30 yesterday morning, a motorcade bearing family members accompanied Inos' hearse from the Borja Funeral Home in Oleai to the Mount Carmel Cathedral. Inos' casket, draped in the Commonwealth flag, was taken inside to a crowd of family members and officials. A public visitation period was opened from morning up to early afternoon for people to visit Inos where he lay in front of the altar.

Inos finished high school at Mount Carmel School and later graduated cum laude at the University of Guam. Singing the school's anthem, members of the MCS Class of 1967 said their goodbyes to their classmate around 1:38pm yesterday.

Lawmakers, Cabinet members, and off-island dignitaries—including Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo, former Guam governor Felix Camacho, Vice Presidet Yosiwo George of the Federated States of Micronesia, Yap Lt. Gov. James Yangetmai, and Office of Insular Affairs Assistant Secretary Esther Kia-aina—also paid their final respects yesterday afternoon.

Distraught or solemn, officials and family members stood in front of the casket to say their prayers, speak directly to Inos, or reach down over him as if in embrace as they said their goodbye.

A steady procession of people from a cross-section of CNMI society and of all kinds of nationalities streamed into the cathedral from morning to afternoon, forming two long lines that stretched from the entrance to the altar to pay their respects and convey their grief to the family.

At 3:15 pm, Inos' children, siblings and relatives bid their final goodbyes and Inos' casket was closed. A large Bible and rosary beads were laid on top of the casket, after it was brought into position in the middle of the aisle.

Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) gave a eulogy and a Mass of Christian burial was held.

At 5pm, the cathedral's bells tolled and a few minutes later, guests in the cathedral filed outside, standing at the sides of the church and near the road as Inos' casket was led out.

The community then followed the line of pallbearers and color guard carrying and leading Inos' casket to the Chalan Kanoa cemetery. It was a quiet walk and the late afternoon sun warm and the air cool.

Around 5:30pm, Inos casket was carried into the cemetery, and a few minutes later police officers carrying the casket was placed on its final resting place.

Fr. James Balajadia made the final benediction and prayers, the officers removed and folded the Commonwealth flag that had been draped Inos' coffin, and officers standing several yards away gave a 21-gun salute.

Family and the community tossed flowers and laid wreaths on Inos' casket as it was lowered into the ground, women with ukuleles sang melodies that included the CNMI anthem.

By 6pm, slabs of concrete were lifted and were sealed over Inos casket. By then, most funeral guests, except for close family and friends, had filed away.

Remembering Inos

Inos was remembered yesterday for devoting himself to a life of service for more than three decades. His hard work, his ethics, his mastery of accounting and "can-do attitude" were cited for propelling him through the ranks of government as one who stabilized and monitored the finances of the Commonwealth.

Inos was known for his positive outlook and energy that "made you feel safe," calm, and secure, said Demapan in his eulogy. Lifting austerity measures and safeguarding the NMI Retirement Fund system from collapse were some of the solutions he sought to find as he led the Commonwealth through some of its most trying times.

Inos sought to tackle these monumental tasks because he wanted to restore the people's confidence in their government, Demapan said. And because he wanted everyone to be proud of the islands they call home.

"Governor Inos loved ribbon-cutting ceremonies," said Dempan. "And it wasn't because of the photo-ops and good press that came with it. He loved it because every ribbon cut was a symbol of getting things done. He would always tell us that his favorite tools were the pen, the shovel, and the scissor. For him, these stood for the plan, the action, and the result."

Demapan said Inos will go down as a key figure in the economic development of the islands, who saw ways to jumpstart a stagnant economy when other only saw limitations ahead.

"Everyone knows the work that this true statesman has done for us and our Commonwealth," Demapan said. "We wake up to it every day."

Inos was also a man of many "firsts." On Nov. 4, 1986, the Covenant Agreement between the United States and the Northern Mariana Islands—which established the U.S. and CNMI relationship—became fully effective. Two days later, in a commemorative ceremony in Washington, D.C., a 37-year-old Inos became the first from the CNMI to receive a U.S. passport.

"Who would've known that 27 years later, that same person would become chief executive of this United States Commonwealth?" Demapan said.

Inos was also elected to the first Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council, where he was also elected chairman. In April of 2009, then Secretary of Finance Inos became the first person in the CNMI to be appointed lieutenant governor and seven months later, was elected by the people to continue serving as lieutenant governor. In February 2013, Inos became the first lieutenant governor to be elevated to the position of governor. Nearly two years later, Inos went on to win the overwhelming confidence of the people to continue serving as governor, making him the first and only person to fill the top two positions in government by ascension before subsequently being elected to fill them.

Demapan echoed President Barack Obama in calling Inos a tireless advocate.

"…No matter how painful he was feeling, he worked tirelessly in pursuit of a better Commonwealth for all of us. If he found himself in the hospital, it didn't mean it was break time. He'd constantly call us at the office asking for all kinds of documents and files that he needed to review."

During a trip to Hawaii once, Demapan recalled hearing news that his mother had passed away. Inos told him that he had to go home right away. And as Demapan was on the phone to call to have a ticket booked, Inos dropped his credit card in front of Demapan and told him to change his flight too. Inos was supposed to get treatment in a Hawaii hospital the next day, Demapan said, and he objected, but Inos said, "No, we're going back home."

"We're going back home if it means I am going to chew on ice cubes the whole flight," said Demapan, recalling the late governor's words.

"…To take that plane ride with me," said Demapan, "even if it meant one day overdue. Gov. Inos was one of a kind."

REPORTER'S

From Page 1

nor goodbye. His family could barely sit down because of the many visitors that would pray over him and then offer their condolences with hugs and kisses. People of different cultures and nationalities were present—showing that no matter the differences, the governor has touched their lives one way or the other.

■ During the Mass and speeches, various views of the governor came to light. For many, Inos was a politician, the governor, and the leader of the CNMI, but he was also an ordinary person. He was a brother, a father, a grandfather, an uncle—someone who loved his family. He was also a friend, a mentor. He was seen as a faithful follower of the church and a devotee of San Vicente.

■ Inos was also a great boss, as many of those who worked for him shared. It was evident from the people closest to him in the workplace how much they will miss him and how much he has touched their lives.

■ In the afternoon, the church was full of people who attended the Mass and said their final goodbyes. Many stood the entire time at the back of the church, and then followed suit for the burial. As a final show of respect and love, each offered flowers before Inos was laid to his final rest. ***(Frauleine Michelle S. Villanueva-Dizon)***

■■■

■ Several agencies were granted administrative leave in order to allow government employees to pay their respects to the governor. Some employees stayed until the end or at least until 4:30pm.

■ The social hall was filled with friends and family, and a few who were there for *balutan*.

■ It is noteworthy to mention that, thanks to the forethought of the Department of Public Safety and Mt. Carmel leadership, there were no traffic issues at the funeral. It was only when the governor's hearse first arrived that two car accidents occurred during the convoy.

■ Over 50 wreaths from several agencies expressing their greatest sympathies, and deepest condolences lined the Mt. Carmel Cathedral. One said: "the CNMI lost a great leader."

■ Anthony Alepuyo, the governor's most trusted personal security, was visibly emotional after saying his last goodbyes. It was evident during Rep. Angel Demapan's remarks and messages from the family that the governor was a father figure to many and would be sorely missed.

■ The social hall surprisingly did not run out of food to feed the people. Previous funerals of prominent CNMI officials often ran out of food.

■ It's an unfortunate reality in the CNMI, probably worse than nepotism or corruption, that great leaders and great visionaries die due to non-communicable diseases.

■ *Adios, esta ki* is a song often sung during funerals, a classic Chamorro song that could almost be considered *Amazing Grace*'s counterpart. The song's chorus in English is "Goodbye, until we see each other again, goodbye." It certainly puts things in perspective and based on what the late governor believed, it's a great reminder that we are all human. ***(Daisy Demapan)***

■■■

■ During his eulogy yesterday, Rep. Angel Demapan, a former press secretary under Inos, recounted one instance when, as then-Lt. Gov. Inos was leaving the office, he backed into a tree. When asked what happened, Inos complained and asked, "Who put the tree there?!" "Well, the tree had been there for as long as anyone could remember," Demapan said, "but it was still the tree's fault."

■ Inos also liked to keep up with technology and the latest gadgets. "Except when he'd complain to us that his emails and calendar schedules weren't showing up on his phone," said Demapan. "But that was because they either weren't installed or he wasn't logged in."

■ A man of character, of family, of finance, and of shrimp? According to Demapan, Inos loved family gatherings. Inos would make sure that food was more than enough for everyone to enjoy and then some. "And as his family would know," Demapan added, "the party was not a party unless there was shrimp."

■ Demapan also said that when Inos first became lieutenant governor, this "very private man" did not like the idea of being driven around. But because he was the lieutenant governor, he was provided with the security that came with the position. "We quickly learned that didn't matter," Demapan said. "When it was time to leave his house, he would peek out the window to see where the officer was and then exit through the back door and drive himself to the office or to wherever his presence was needed."

■ Police officer Anthony Alepuyo was later chosen by the late governor to drive him when Inos became governor. Alepuyo was also behind the wheel of Inos' hearse upon his arrival on Saipan last Friday, and his arrival at the Mount Carmel Cathedral yesterday morning.

■ "I have a great deal to accomplish with you and for you over the next four years. And Lord willing, that's exactly what I intend to do." That's how Inos closed his inaugural address exactly one year ago yesterday. While the Lord did not will it, Inos' will in the face of his illness—to this reporter—was remarkably exemplified in the humor, eloquence, and thoughtfulness with which he led the few press conferences or events this reporter had chance to see him work. The room listened, Cabinet members leaned in, the administration was assured by his very word, it seemed. The late governor was accessible, and you could tell he enjoyed explaining things, clearly. Direct quotes aplenty. ***(Dennis Chan)***

Legislature, govt lectured for inaction on court judgments

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman once again lectured the Legislature and the CNMI government for their inaction and not honoring the courts' judgments against the Commonwealth.

Wiseman said the Legislature grants no benefit to society when judgments are not honored.

"Certainly not when they're ignored," he said.

Wiseman reminded the government that a noble reputation takes great effort to build but may be swiftly destroyed. "If not today, maybe tomorrow," he said.

Wiseman discussed the issue of courts' judgments against the government in separate lawsuits filed by Cheryl Indalecio and Miguel Camacho against the government and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

On Jan. 18, 2007, Indalecio filed a first amended complaint against the government seeking relief for the loss of her son, Christopher. Indalecio alleged that physicians at Commonwealth Health Center botched an adjustment of a tracheotomy tube as Christopher was recovering from surgery. In May 2008, the government agreed to settle the case for $50,000.

In her motion, Indalecio complained that the government has yet to satisfy this judgment.

On Aug. 23, 2010, Miguel Magofna Camacho filed a complaint against the government seeking relief for the loss suffered by his son. Camacho alleged that physicians at CHC installed a rod in his son's arm. However, due in part to complications arising from the boy's medical condition, his arm became infected and had to be amputated. On July 19, 2013, the government agreed to settle the case for $15,000.

Indalecio and Camacho, through counsel Michael Dotts, filed a motion for an order in aid of judgment. They complained that the government has yet to pay both judgments.

They want the court to force the government to pay these judgments and to compel the Executive Branch to reprogram funds to allow the full payment.

In the alternative, the plaintiffs asked the court to direct the Legislature to pay the judgment.

In his order on Monday, Wiseman denied the plaintiffs' motion for an order in aid of judgment "at this time," noting that under the most recent budget act, the Legislature has set aside $8,000 for the "judgment against government" line item, an independent programming allocation.

Wiseman said part of the plaintiffs' judgment may be paid using that fund.

In fact, the judge cited that the court has already granted such relief in its order, dated Dec. 7, 2015.

Whether the governor has been granted full reprogramming authority is not material to the question of whether the court can compel the Executive Branch to reprogram funds—as expressly limited under Section 7207—in order to satisfy a civil judgment against the government, he said.

Therefore, Wiseman said, the plaintiffs have not met their burden to show that the governor may be compelled to reprogram its funds to satisfy the judgments.

"While the Legislature's lack of a full commitment to addressing the government's judgment debtor obligations is undoubtedly an infraction on the administration of justice, the court is not persuaded that said inaction rises to a threat on the notion of an independent judiciary," Wiseman said.

The plaintiffs have not met their burden to show that the court may compel the Legislature to satisfy the judgments using the judiciary's inherent powers, he added.

"This is not the first time this court has addressed the harm of legislative inaction—or the first time the Commonwealth courts have addressed such concerns," he said.

Wiseman said he once cautioned that this government culture of not honoring the courts' judgments "can create an environment of distrust and may shape an unsavory reputation for the Commonwealth."

"Our society is built on the simple, but human principle that I will honor my promise," Wiseman said, adding that such "age-hold gesture is not the hallmark of a good society or even that of a decent society; it is the necessary foundation for a basic one."

"It is what good mothers teach their daughters. And what good fathers teach their sons. It is what good governments do for their citizens," he said.

DUE TO LOGISTICAL REQUIREMENT FOR FUNERAL

'All law enforcers tasked to work together'

All local law enforcement agencies were tasked to work together for the funeral of the late governor Eloy S. Inos, particularly since the event required tremendous logistical requirement and manpower.

"We shared responsibilities," according to acting Department of Public Safety commissioner Robert A. Guerrero yesterday.

Guerrero said the task force that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres organized for the funeral was composed of all local law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth and not just DPS.

He said DPS would not have been able to do it alone.

He said other law enforcement agencies involved were Customs, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Homeland Security, Parole, Probation, Fire Department, Marshals, and Department of Corrections.

Guerrero said the Customs director handled the VIP dignitaries.

"We pick up the loads where the shortfall is and somebody covers it," he said. "We actually work together."

Guerrero said they update Torres on a daily basis as far as what's going on with the operations. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Following Information/Documents Required
Property Map/As Built Map/ Total Land Area
If available for existing building showing exact location & building details
Owner Title Information
Owner Asking Price

Male Chinese tourist drowns on Tinian

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Chinese male tourist drowned while swimming at Tachogna Beach on Tinian yesterday afternoon.

Tinian Department of Public Safety director John Santos confirmed last night that there was a drowning incident and that the victim, a tourist, was flown to the Commonwealth Health Center on Saipan.

Santos refused to release more details pending further investigation of the incident.

Saipan Tribune learned that the victim, a 29-year-old Chinese tourist, was swimming alone at Tachogna Beach.

Beach concessionaire employees saw the victim already floating in the water and called the Tinian police.

No other details were available as of press time. DPS Saipan is expected to release more information about the incident today, Wednesday.

It is the first drowning incident in the CNMI this year.

Last Dec. 16, a firefighter of the Commonwealth Ports Authority-Aircraft Rescue drowned while spear fishing at East Bay in Laolao, Saipan.

Last Nov. 14, a male Chinese tourist diver drowned while three others were safely rescued by DPS personnel at Grotto in Marpi.

Last June 16, a 60-year-old Korean female tourist drowned while snorkeling with family members on Managaha Island.

Inos' family gives thanks for outpouring of support

The Commonwealth lost a leader with the passing of the late governor Eloy S. Inos, but his family lost more—a beloved father.

Yesterday, the public bore witness to and shared the grief evident to those who have known Inos all his life, and known him beyond the workplace and the political arena.

During funeral services at Mt. Carmel Cathedral yesterday, Associate Justice Perry Inos Sr., who spoke on behalf of the family, mentioned and thanked various people and community members in Chamorro.

"On behalf of the governor's children, siblings, in-laws, and their spouses, I extend to all a sincerest appreciation," Inos said. "We are deeply touched by your presence today. We humbly ask for continued prayers."

While Inos' family shied away from the media, his children—Dora Anne Inos Deleon Guerrero, Elaine Michelle Inos, Eloise Kay Inos, Christine Mae Inos, Fleauretta Jean Inos, and Velma Paulette Apatang-Lore—expressed their gratitude to the Commonwealth in a statement.

"To the dear people of the Commonwealth and friends near and far, *Un Sen Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase* from the bottom of our hearts. Words cannot express the deep gratitude and appreciation that we have for the mountain of prayers, overwhelming support and unconditional love that you have for our father," Inos' children stated in the message printed on the back of the funeral program that was handed out during the ceremonies.

They said that through the support of everyone from all over the world, the weight in their hearts was lifted.

"Our hearts are heavy as we mourn his loss but the tremendous support and comfort that we have received from all over the world have made the weight lighter and easier to bear," they said.

The children also noted that Inos always decided for the best interest of the CNMI.

"We lost a great man who had a big and humble heart with the passion to help. The decisions he made were always for the best interest of the Commonwealth and her people. He made a lot of sacrifices, spent countless hours, days and sleepless nights to find solutions to improve and better the state of the Commonwealth and the lives of every man, woman and child," they said.

They also said thanked the Commonwealth for letting their father serve the people and hoped that he made them proud.

"We are extremely proud of all his accomplishments and hope that he made you proud too. On behalf of the Inos family, thank you to the people of the Commonwealth for giving our beloved Honorable Governor Eulogio Songao Inos the honor and opportunity to serve you," the statement said.

"May the new year bring love, peace, happiness, good health and prosperity to all. Your kindness and support will forever be in our hearts. God bless us all and our great Commonwealth!" it added. ***(Frauleine Villanueva-Dizon)***

Lack of produce hampering opening of public market

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The public market in Garapan has stopped selling farm produce since late last year and might not be able to open anytime soon.

Aside from agreement contract issues with the government and organizational hurdles of the CNMI Farmers Cooperative Association, the bigger problem is that farmers don't have enough products to sell to the public.

According to association president Crispin Deleon Guerrero, it was earlier proposed that the market open this month but this might not happen.

"With the absence of most fruit and vegetables, I don't think it's going to happen," Deleon Guerrero said "I don't want to open the market unless we got enough produce to shelf. Vegetables alone are not going to work."

Deleon Guerrero said last year's typhoons such as Soudelor have really affected their plants and crops.

He said there is not enough local produce on island and even some fruits are not flowering.

"We're not going to open unless we have a good enough inventory to sell," Deleon Guerrero said. "The problem now is we should be having mangoes and avocadoes this month but [there is] nothing."

Even local bananas are not for sale on island.

"We don't have any fruits to substitute the shelves," Deleon Guerrero said.

He said they are looking at communicating with the other islands to send their produce for sale.

"If we can guarantee some produce from Tinian and Rota, then we can open the market," Deleon Guerrero said.

However, the market also has other requirements that they need to comply with before they could open.

"We have to have a manager, we have to have an employee, we have to pay for [Commonwealth Utilities Corp.] and things like that," Deleon Guerrero said.

For now, Deleon Guerrero said is inviting farmers to sell what produce they have on hand outside the public market building every Saturday. He said they will be there from 6am to 11am.

CIP PROGRAM OFFICE, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 969505 | Tel.: (670) 664-2375 | Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID
ITB16-GOV-032
Parking Lot Paving at the Rota Mayor's Office

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the CIP Program Office are soliciting sealed bids to pave the parking lot at the Rota Mayor's Office on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available December 31, 2015 at the CIP Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A $50.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. **All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.**

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference/site visit for this project on January 14, 2016, 9:00 a.m. ChST at the project site. All inquiries regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. ChST, January 19, 2016 to the CIP Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective contractors.

Sealed bids must be marked ITB16-GOV-032 Parking Lot Paving at the Rota Mayor's Office. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the **Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan no later than 9:00 a.m. ChST January 28, 2016.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **9:00 a.m. ChST January 28, 2016** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 28, 2016 and the bid documents must be received no later than February 05, 2016. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. ChST February 8, 2016.** However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at **10:00 a.m. ChST January 28, 2016.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:
a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:
1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is one hundred fifty (150) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred dollars ($200.00) per day, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 150 calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor
Herman S. Sablan, Director
CNMI Procurement & Supply

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 969505 | Tel.: (670) 664-2375 | Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID
ITB16-GOV-033
Parking Lot Paving at the Rota Department of Public Safety and Fire Station

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the CIP Program Office are soliciting sealed bids to pave the parking lots at the Rota Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Fire Station on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available December 31, 2015 at the CIP Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A $50.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. **All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.**

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference/site visit for this project on January 14, 2016, 11:00 a.m. ChST at the project site. All inquiries regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. ChST, January 19, 2016 to the CIP Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective contractors.

Sealed bids must be marked ITB16-GOV-033 Parking Lot Paving at the Rota DPS and Fire Station. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the **Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan** no later than **9:00 a.m. ChST January 28, 2016.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 9:00 a.m. ChST January 28, 2016 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 28, 2016 and the bid documents must be received no later than February 05, 2016. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

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A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:
1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
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4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is one hundred fifty (150) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred dollars ($200.00) per day, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 150 calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor
Herman S. Sablan, Director
CNMI Procurement & Supply

USCIS' alleged inaction renders woman jobless for a year now

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A battered spouse of a U.S. citizen who has been supporting a daughter studying at Northern Marianas College was allegedly forced to stop working for over a year now due to the inaction of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services on her application to renew her employment authorization document, or EAD.

Fengying Li Urumelog, a Chinese citizen, also alleged that her underlying I-360 petition based on her status as a battered and abused spouse of a U.S. citizen has been pending for more than 3 1/2 years for which she already been determined to be prima facie eligible.

USCIS' alleged inaction has prompted Urumelog to sue Service Center Operations associate director Donald Neufeld, USCIS district director David Gulick, USCIS Director Leon Rodriguez, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, and Attorney General Loretta Lynch in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Urumelog, through counsel Samuel I. Mok, wants the court to compel USCIS to decide on her pending application for renewal of her EAD.

Urumelog also asked the court to force USCIS to decide on her underlying I-360 petition, which has been pending since May 17, 2012.

Mok said that Urumelog has already written follow up letters to USCIS, called the USCIS national customer service hotline, made and attended an InfoPass Appointment to speak to a USCIS officer in person, and communicated with ranking USCIS officials about her situation, to no avail.

Mok said USCIS' failure to decide on Urumelog's application for renewal of her EAD for more than one year is "outrageous and unreasonable" as these decisions are usually made within two to three months of receipt.

According to the petition, on May 17, 2012, Urumelog filed an I-360 petition based on her status as a battered and abused spouse of a U.S. citizen, an I-485 application for adjustment of status, and an I-765 application for employment authorization.

On May 25, 2012, USCIS determined that Urumelog had established a prima facie case for classification as a battered and abused spouse under the Violence Against Women Act.

In December 2012, Urumelog's I-765 application for employment authorization was granted by USCIS for a period of one year and an EAD was issued to her. She then started working as a sales associate for T Galleria on Saipan.

In October 2013, she submitted an I-765 application to renew her EAD based on her pending I-360 petition as a battered and abused spouse of a U.S. citizen. Two months later, USCIS granted a one-year renewal of her EAD.

On Oct. 24, 2014, Urumelog submitted a second I-765 application to USCIS for renewal of her EAD but USCIS issued a rejection notice less than a month later, erroneously stating that Urumelog failed to submit the requisite $380 filing fee.

According to Mok, there is no filing fee for I-765 applications for employment authorization submitted under the federal Violence Against Women Act.

Uremelog resubmitted her I-765 application along with a letter response to the rejection notice by pointing out that there is no fee associated with EAD applications submitted pursuant to VAWA.

On Dec. 22, 2014, USCIS issued a receipt notice for Uremelog's re-submitted I-765 application. In doing so, Mok said, USCIS implicitly acknowledged that it had erred in initially rejecting the original I-765 application that was submitted.

Since then, Mok said, USCIS has failed to issue a decision on Urumelog's I-765 application for renewal of her EAD despite the passage of more than one year. Mok said Urumelog was prohibited from working as her prior EAD had expired in December 2014.

As a result, Mok said, Urumelog had to stop working at T Galleria, which has resulted in the loss of her livelihood and income.

During an InfoPass appointment at the USCIS office on Saipan last June 23, 2015, a USCIS officer told Urumelog that her I-765 application was currently at the Vermont Service Center and that there was nothing he could do.

According to the USCIS officer, "Vermont does what Vermont do," which he explained to mean that the Vermont Service Center was known for indifference in delays and would process her application at its own pace irrespective of the amount of time it took.

The USCIS officer then typed something on his computer and told Urumelog that he had just sent a message to the Vermont Service Center inquiring about her pending EAD application.

On July 1, 2015, Urumelog filed a new I-765 renewal application for an EAD and submitted a payment of $380 despite the fact that no such fee was required under VAWA because she wanted to make sure the delay in the processing of her application was not due to her failure to pay.

Urumelog insisted on filing a new I-765 application as she was desperate to resume working in order to pay her bills and support her daughter who was attending college at NMC full-time.

To date, Mok said, USCIS has not acknowledged receiving the new I-765 application that Urumelog filed nor has she received any decision regarding her pending I-765 application submitted on Dec. 3, 2014, and officially received by the USCIS on Dec. 22, 2014.

To date, he said, petitioner has not received any decision regarding her pending I-360 petition as the battered and abused spouse of a U.S. citizen or her pending I-485 application for adjustment of status filed with USCIS on May 17, 2012, and May 15, 2012 respectively.

Also, the lawyer said, there are no outstanding or pending requests for evidence issued by USCIS.

"In short, it appears petitioner's I-765 application for renewal of her EAD, her I-360 petition, and her I-485 application for adjustment of status have all entered a 'black hole' with nobody at the USCIS willing to concretely assist her in solving this problem beyond promising to send an email," Mok said.

Mok said the USCIS' failure to make a decision on Urumelog's I-765 application for renewal of her EAD and I-360 petition as the battered and abused spouse of a U.S. citizen has caused immediate and ongoing hardship by precluding her from obtaining a job and earning a living so she can support herself and her daughter.

ERRATUM

In the story titled "After more than a decade, CHC nurses get pay hike" that was published in the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Jan. 11, 2016, it was erroneously reported that the 2-percent pay increase will add more than $6,000 to the total of the average pay for nurses. The correct figure should be more than $600, which is 2 percent of their average pay of $33,000. Our apologies for the error.

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WESPAC offers 3 new college, graduate scholarships

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council and its Education Committee members announced the availability of three scholarships for academic years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

These scholarships support the aspiration to build the capacity of American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to effectively manage their fisheries and related resources through the employment of their own people.

The U.S. Pacific Territories Capacity-Building Scholarships may be used for to complete junior and senior years to obtain one of the following undergraduate degrees: BA or BS in Marine Science at the University of Hawaii at Hilo or BS in Oceanography with a concentration in Fisheries Science at the Hawaii Pacific University; or completion of one of the following graduate degrees: MS or Ph.D. in Marine Biology at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa›s Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, MS in Marine Science at Hawaii Pacific University, MS in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, or MS in Biology at the University of Guam.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Undergraduate Student

1. Be a U.S. citizen or national with strong ties to American Samoa, Guam or the CNMI;

2. Have successfully completed freshman and sophomore years of college with a grade point average of 3.0;

3. Have been accepted to attend the University of Hawaii at Hilo (BA or BS in Marine Science) or Hawaii Pacific University (BS in Oceanography with a Concentration in Fisheries Science) in Honolulu for the 2015-2016 academic year;

4. Be available for an 8- to 10-week paid internship in Hawaii;

5. Have demonstrated interest and/or previous work/involvement with fisheries, coral reef conservation or related fields;

6. Commit to being employed for a minimum of two years (one year for each scholarship year) with the American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, Guam Department of Agriculture, or the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources after completion of the undergraduate degree. Those who do not fulfill this commitment will be required to pay back the scholarship amount that has been provided.

Graduate student

1. Be a U.S. citizen or national with strong ties to American Samoa, Guam or the CNMI;

2. Have been accepted to attend one of the following graduate programs for the 2015-2016 academic year: University of Hawaii at Mānoa's MS or PhD in Marine Biology; Hawaii Pacific University's MS in Marine Science; University of Hawaii at Hilo's MS in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science; or University of Guam's MS in Biology;

3. Have demonstrated interest and/or previous work/involvement with fisheries, coral reef conservation or related fields;

4. Commit to being employed for one year for each scholarship year (maximum two years) with the American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, Guam Department of Agriculture, or the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources commencing within the year after completion of the graduate degree or departure from the educational program for which the scholarship was provided. Those who do not fulfill this commitment will be required to pay back the scholarship amount that has been provided.

ELIGIBILITY DOCUMENTS

Undergraduate Student

1. Complete the accompanying scholarship application and a two-page essay on your reasons for pursuing your chosen degree. The essay should include a summary of your relevant experience, your long term career goals and your motivations to serve your home islands in the area of sustainable marine resource management.

2. Provide an official college transcript of freshman and sophomore classes completed to date; and

3. Submit two letters of recommendation, one by a college instructor of your choice and one by a community leader who can speak to your overall ability, likelihood of your success in an undergraduate program of study in Hawaii, and commitment to working in a local fisheries related agency for a minimum of two years upon completion of the undergraduate degree.

Graduate Student

1. Complete the accompanying scholarship application and a two-page essay on your reasons for pursuing your chosen degree. The essay should include a summary of your relevant experience, your long term career goals and your motivations to serve your home islands in the area of sustainable marine resource management.

2. Provide official undergraduate college transcripts and, if relevant, graduate-level college transcripts;

3. Submit two letters of recommendation from professors, employers and/or community leaders who can speak to your overall ability, likelihood of your success in a graduate program of study in Hawaii, and commitment to working in a local fisheries related agency for a minimum of two years upon completion of the undergraduate degree.

Mail completed application and letters of recommendation to Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813, by February 29, 2016. Preliminary decisions will be made by March 15, 2016. Final decision is contingent upon 1) an acceptance letter from the University of Hawaii at Hilo, Hawaii Pacific University or the University of Hawaii at Mānoa HIMB for the 2016-2017 academic year; and 2) the signing of an agreement to work with the American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, Guam Department of Agriculture, or the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources in fisheries ecosystem related work for one year of each scholarship year or to provide immediate reimbursement for the scholarship funds that had been provided. Funding for 2017-2018 will be provided based on proof of continued progress in the college program and maintenance of a 3.0 grade point average. ***(PR)***

NEW LEADERSHIP DENNIS B. CHAN

Member of the House of Representatives pose for a group photo after voting to elect vice speaker Ralph Demapan (R-Saipan) to the speaker's seat and former speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) as vice speaker during a session on Monday on Capital Hill. The leadership switch culminated a verbal promise the two made a year ago to break the impasse in votes for the speakership position.

SPC congratulates Marshalls' president-elect

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—The Secretariat of the Pacific Community congratulates Casten Nemra on his election as the next President of Republic of the Marshall Islands.

"On behalf of SPC, I am delighted to send my congratulations to the newly-elected President Nemra, and to the people of the Marshall Islands," said acific Community Director-General

Dr. Colin Tukuitonga.

"We look forward to strengthening our partnership between SPC and Republic of the Marshall Islands, by continuing to provide scientific and technical assistance at the regional level to complement national efforts to achieve the country's development goals and priorities.

"We send our best wishes for continued progress and prosperity in the years to come," Tukuitonga said.

Nemra, a first-term senator and the youngest person to be elected as President, is a former Secretary of Finance, and also served as Chief Secretary of Republic of the Marshall Islands. ***(SPC)***

US companies now unable to supply MSC-certified tuna

»US, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency fee dispute is keeping vessels out of Pacific

SAN DIEGO—South Pacific Tuna Corp. and its affiliate, The Global Companies (Ocean Global, LLC, Sea Global, LLC, and Pacific Global LLC), announced they are no longer able to uphold their intention to provide the market with sustainable, free-school tuna harvested in the Western and Central Pacific Oceans.

The news is a result of halted U.S. Tuna Fleet operations as directed by the National Marine Fisheries Service, which advised last month that all U.S. vessels are prohibited from fishing in the Western Pacific Ocean until licenses from the Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency are issued for 2016.

The companies committed to establishing an MSC-certified tuna program in January 2015, and spent the following nine months establishing chain of custody programs to meet and exceed the requirements. MSC standards are considered the most stringent of the current managed sustainability programs.

"We spent in excess of $500,000 working with the Pacific island nations to make our vessels compliant to their MSC Chain of Custody standard," said SoPac executive director J. Douglas Hines. "To see all our work now stalled at the start of 2016—before we have even begun fishing according to the standard—is disheartening, and economically harmful to our fleet. We had hoped to join other fleets already harvesting MSC free school tuna, and that these commitments to sustainability and partnerships with the islands would make a difference for today and future generations."

Although SoPac is unable to provide the MSC-certified catch, the company is working with its partners in the region to arrange alternative tuna supply with qualifying fleets to ensure sustainable tuna is supplied to global markets including Europe, the United States and Australia, which are committed to ongoing sustainable resourcing from the island nations.

Governments on both sides of the current licensing conflict continue to discuss solutions that would allow vessels to return to fishing, and further increase the catch and supply of MSC-certified tuna.

"To be clear, The Global Company fleet will maintain our original commitment made in Brisbane to the U.S. Multilateral Treaty," Hines said. "We hope that the involved governments will rapidly reach a solution that will enable those vessels that pay their access fee to be issued licenses, and be allowed to return to operation in the Western Pacific Ocean." ***(SoPac)***

Call for entries for 2nd Humanities Film Festival

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council continues its call for entries for the 2nd Humanities Film Festival to be held in April 2016.

The festival's theme is "Soudelor and the Winds of Change in the CNMI."

Natural disasters can have a profound impact on a community by bringing out the best and worst in members of that community. Such events can fundamentally change a community and alter perspectives on humanity itself as the community grapples with two struggles: the struggle to survive and move forward and the struggle to hold on to one's humanity.

Filmmakers are invited to submit entries that explore and address the ethical, philosophical, and existential questions raised in the aftermath of Typhoon Soudelor.

The festival is open to individuals who are 18 and older and current residents of the CNMI. High school students (9th-12 grades) are also eligible to submit films. Production companies or companies that routinely produce commercial grade videos are not eligible to participate.

Films may be submitted under three categories: Narrative, Documentary, and Student. Entries in each of these categories may be a feature film (more than 30 minutes) or a film short (no more than 15 minutes).

In accordance with festival guidelines, submitters must have had a major creative role in the film's production. Additionally, entries must be mostly moving pictures, not montages of still images and formatted in Quicktime MOV at 780p or higher resolution.

Entries must be received by the Humanities Council no later than 4pm on Thursday, March 31, 2016. Late entries or entries that do not address the festival's theme will not be considered.

Films will be screened in April at a time, date, and venue to be announced. First through third place entries in each category will receive cash prizes.

Entry forms and festival guidelines and fact sheet may be downloaded from the council website, www.northernmarianashumanities.org, or picked up at the council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai.

Please contact council staff at 235-4785 for more information about this upcoming program. ***(NMI Humanities Council)***

Applicants sought for multi-family housing grant program

HILO, Hawaii—U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Agency is soliciting applications for the Housing Preservation Grant program. Qualified applicants are encouraged to apply. Pre-applications are due by 5pm on Feb. 12 to the Hawaii State Office.

The Housing Preservation Grant is a grant program which provides qualified public agencies and private non-profit organizations, including faith-based and community organizations, and other eligible entities grant funds to assist very-low and low-income homeowners in repairing and rehabilitating their homes in rural areas. In addition, the program assists rental property owners and cooperative housing complexes in repairing and rehabilitating their units if they agree to make such units available to low- and very low-income persons.

Pre-application packages may be found online at www.rd.usda.gov/files/533_HPG_Preapplication_FY2016.pdf or obtained from and submitted to: USDA Rural Development, Room 311, Federal Building, 154 Waianuenue Ave., Hilo, HI 96720. Telephone: (808) 933-8300

The *Federal Register* notice can be downloaded at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-12-29/pdf/2015-32784.pdf.

Further information on USDA Rural Development Multi-family Housing Programs is at: www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/multi-family-housing-programs.

The overall mission of USDA Rural Development is to deliver programs in a way that supports increasing economic opportunity and improves the quality of life for rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on programs is available at any local office or by visiting www.rd.usda.gov/hi.

USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, administers and manages housing, business and community infrastructure programs through a national network of state and local offices. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America. ***(USDA)***

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Position Title: Hospitality Administrative Specialist (Chinese Marketing)

Position Summary:
The Hospitality Administrative Specialist (Chinese Marketing) works with all aspects of administrative management, budget management, operational strategizing, contracts, financials, directory maintenance, logistics, purchasing, equipment inventory and storage.

Salary: USD 32,830 – USD 52,870 **Number of openings: 3**

Duties:
Arranges schedules of meetings, creates spreadsheets and presentations, accounting and financial reports, interprets and translates reports between English and Mandarin. Establish and implement departmental policies, goals, objectives and procedures, conferring with board members, organization officials and staff members as necessary. Review financial statements, sales and activity reports, and other performance data to measure productivity goal achievement and to determine areas needing cost reduction and project improvement. Monitor businesses and agencies to ensure that they efficiently and effectively provide needed services all staying within budgetary limits. Schedule meetings, interviews, events and other similar activities. Prepares and finalizes business correspondence (often using word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation computer software). Supports recruiting in the sales process and assists in the identification of new business. Frequently visits existing and potential customers. Ensures a positive customer service perception and reinforces a value added proposition to customers. Ensures self and team are capturing and cultivating customer loyalty. Ensure all new hires are properly onboarded after hire, including appropriate training. Partner with the Human Resources Department when needed to work through challenging conflicts. Creates, coordinates and implements plans to achieve week overweek sales growth. Manage inventory of assets and supplies, and receive reports of stocks and supplies from assistants. Coordinate between departments and operating units in resolving daily administrative and operational problems. Answer phone calls and direct calls to appropriate parties or take messages. Attend meetings to record minutes. Greet visitors and determine whether they should be given access to specific individuals. Read and analyze incoming memos, submissions, and reports to determine their significance and plan their distribution. File and retrieve corporate documents, records, and reports. Open, sort, and distribute incoming correspondence, including faxes and email. Prepare responses to correspondence containing routine inquiries. Manage and maintain executives schedules.

Qualifications:
Associate's degree or equivalent work experience. Minimum of three (3) or more years of experience in clerical or document handling, minimum of two (2) years in accounting work or education. Hospitality Management, Business Administration/Management, Commerce, Accounting, Hotel Management background is preferred. Ability to read, analyze, and interpret documents, such as policy procedure manuals, and other related documents. Able to communicate effectively in English and Mandarin (Written/Spoken).

To apply for this position, you are required to email your detailed resume to recruitment@bestsunshine.co or drop off an application to the Best Sunshine Office located on the 3rd floor of the Bank of Guam building in Garapan.

Closing date: January 16, 2016

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
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Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. KIM EUGENE FORRESTER Defendant.	] CIVIL ACTION] NO. 14-0223]] NOTICE OF AUCTION and] JUDICIAL SALE OF] DEFENDANT'S REMAINING] LEASEHOLD INTEREST ON] THE MORTGAGED] PROPERTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 2nd day of April, 2015, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendant, as prescribed in the Order Granting Motion for Order of Judicial Sale of Leasehold Interest of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **3rd day of February, 2016 at 10 a.m.,** at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot 541 NEW-3-1. (a consolidation of Lot 541 New-2 and part of Lot 541 New-R2, formerly part of Lot 541 NEW-REM, part of Lot 541 NEW, which was part of Original Lot 541, TD 162) as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2203/91 the original of which was recorded 29 AUG 1991 as Documented No. 91-3913 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) to reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Bank of Guam.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 23rd day of December, 2015

/s/
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447 / 234-7670 • Fax: 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Notice to the General Public

Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program
(December 31, 2015)

Pursuant to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently published FY 2016 Fair Market Rent (FMR), which took effect on December 11, 2015, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) wants to respectfully inform the general public that there has been a decrease in the FY 2016 FMR. As a result of this decrease, NMHC's FY 2016 Payment Standards shall be effective for all **FY 2016 New Admission and Other Change-of-Unit (Unit Transfer) certifications** that occur after December 11, 2015. Based on 24 CFR 982.505, for participants undergoing an annual recertification, the FY 2016 Payment Standards shall take effect for the family beginning at the effective date of the family's second regular reexamination following the effective date of the decrease in the payment standard amount.

Thank you and please direct all questions regarding this public notice to the following individuals:

1. **Saipan Office – Telephone Numbers: 234-6866 or 234-9447**
   - David Chargualaf, PHD Manager – email: phdmanager@nmhcgov.net
2. **Tinian Field Office – Telephone Number: 433-9213**
   - Frances Diaz, Tinian Field Office Representative – email: tiniannmhc@nmhcgov.net
3. **Rota Field Office – Telephone Number: 532-9410**
   - Arvin Ogo, Rota Field Office Representative – email: ropnmhc@nmhcgov.net

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950-1055
Tel.: (670) 236-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the ARFF Classroom in the Pacific Region ARFF Training Center at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, on Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (November 25, 2015)

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

IV. SPECIAL AGENDA ITEMS
1. New Rate Methodology
2. Master Concession
   a. Ricondo's Recommendation
   b. Program Goals
   c. Proposed legislation
3. Supplemental Request
   a. Airport
   b. Seaport
4. Contracts-Ricondo
5. Personnel Matter: Staff Engineer position
6. Military Implementation and Operations Exercise Plan – Final Regulations

V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/
JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman, Board of Directors

January 11, 2016

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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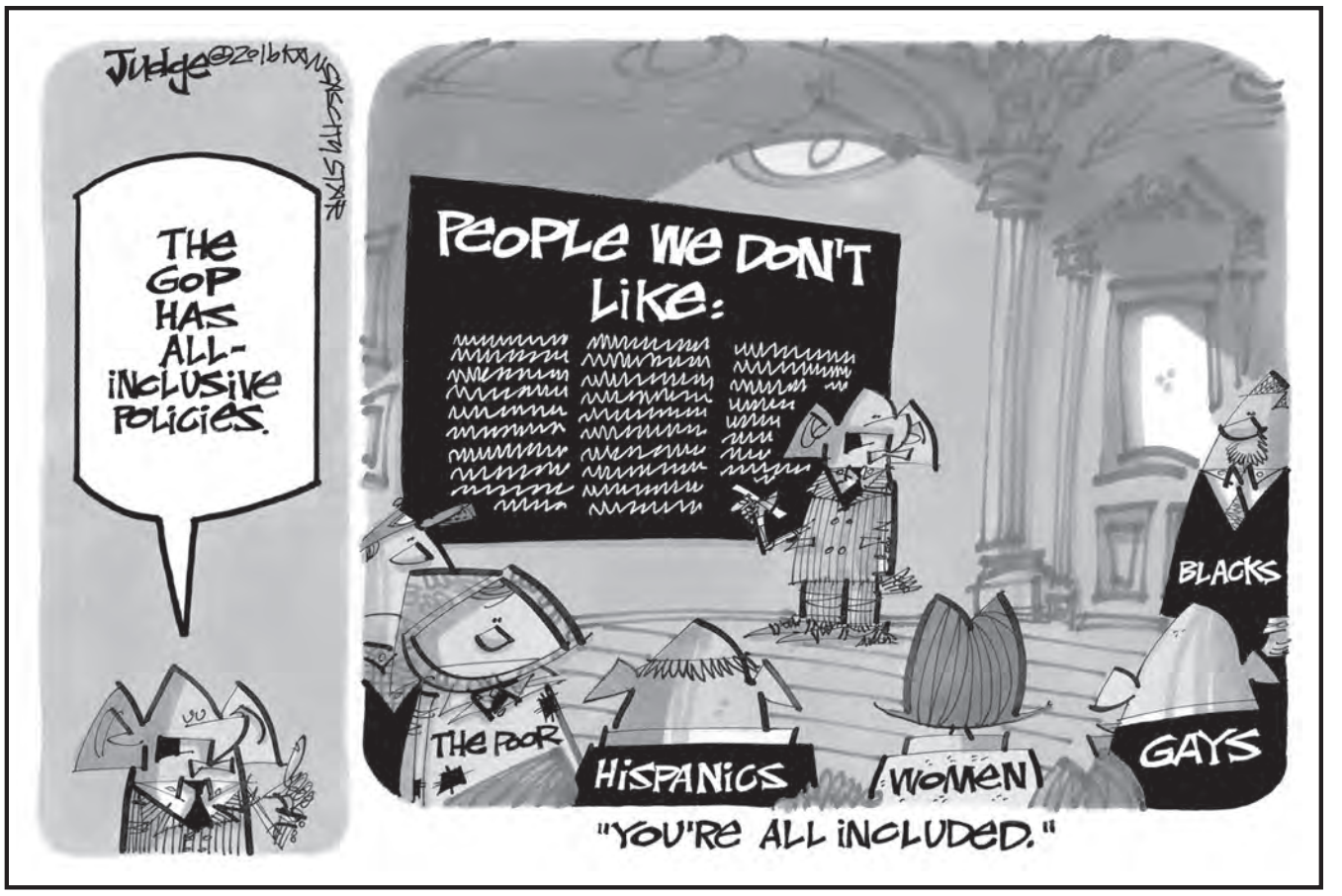


EDITORIAL

The difference between Sean Penn and journalists

Whatever actor Sean Penn's cloak-and-dagger interview with Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman is—vanity project, movie treatment, friendly chat between celebrity and sociopath—treating it as real journalism would be a mistake.

Real journalism about the Mexican drug cartels can get you killed. Just ask the families and colleagues of the 32 reporters and photographers murdered and another 30 who have disappeared since 1992 in Mexico, the vast majority while covering crime and corruption.

Those reporters didn't settle for drinks with Guzman, pose for photos, then jet home to plan their next bit of global activism. And the price they paid in pursuit of the whole truth is worth noting, if only to put Penn's "scoop" into context.

In his 10,000-word piece in *Rolling Stone* magazine—published online Saturday after Guzman was recaptured in a shootout Friday—the actor navel-gazed about interviewing the leader of a bloody criminal gang, bragged about fearing for his own safety while traveling to the secret rendezvous and pontificated about the failed war on drugs and Americans' complicity.

He also listened to Guzman's story, and shared it; that was interesting and useful. But real reportage would have challenged Guzman's excuses for his barbaric behavior, and included rebuttal from law enforcement. (Indeed, Guzman was allowed to review the article before publication, which, among journalists, makes it more of a press release.)

"Look, all I do is defend myself, nothing more," the man who claimed to be the world's No. 1 drug trafficker told his credulous interviewer. "But do I start trouble? Never."

Tell that to the relatives of his dozens, if not hundreds, of victims. Somehow, in all his words, Penn managed not to include their voices, or of those who live in the drug war zone where he wrote that Guzman is a "Robin Hood-like figure."

Guzman is probably used to such gentle treatment with corruption rampant in Mexico's justice system. He has twice escaped a "top security" prison, in 2014 and again last July. This time, Mexican authorities may extradite him to the U.S., where he faces drug trafficking, kidnapping and murder charges. Unfortunately, that process could take a year or more.

If and when that happens, readers should seek out the reports from the courtroom, where they'll learn the rest of the story, and perhaps learn why, for reporters who aren't famous actors, the job is so dangerous.

(c)2016 *The Sacramento Bee* (Sacramento, Calif.)

Ralph DLG Torres

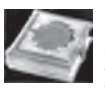
By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

Folks were in their black fineries, except mine that I thought was silk but turned out to be worse than acrylic, as Eloy Inos was laid to his eternal repose at CK. It is now the day after, Ralph's turn in the spotlight.

I won't focus on the man or his office. Others will do that. I enumerate what I am sure he already discovered, that the island life he presides over shares a number of perspectives inherited from many traditions.

There is the perspective of One among the plenty, symbolized by the chant of Om/Aum by those influenced by the Indo tradition, with some ritualizing Dharmic understanding not too far from Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center at CK. Sister Remedios arises from the dogma/doctrine from the books (Biblia) unified in the teachings of the Church.



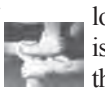
Muslims took the book with no one but Allah, and and made it sacrosanct, Mohammed his prophet!

The Buddhist took that ethos of One and made it Two, understanding that two opposing forces are in nature and it is best to contain it in a circle of One in the Yin-yang making the balancing act the profound human activity. The traditions of Sinosphere, prevalent on this island with the Shinto and the Tao, attest to these practices. Even Mao Zedong in his Contradictions, attempting the Marxist triune dialectic, could only get past the individual and the commune into the rule of the Communist Party, forgetting the grace of China's tradition of group dance like the once I witnessed performed in Manchuria, Inner Mongolia, Sichuan, and Chongqing.

The Persians and Egyptians took the Two that perpetually clashed, Good and Evil, the temporality of the here vs. the eternity up-there, along with Augustine translating the thesis-antithesis-synthesis process into the personal level and pitted inadequacy and guilt against wholeness and salvation, locating the union of a third force in the divinity of the Christ-word, and the Trinity of the One.

Thomas Aquinas built a theological edifice of faith that made Three perpetually a force of nature in the Summa Theologica with Providence as supreme and sovereign, marketed by the Jesuits who romped around the known and unknown worlds with the assurance of the enlightened in the name of the Roman Pope.

In is on this three that Ralph would have been schooled as the Europeans colonized a planet that insisted their ways were superior to the native pagan, bringing with them the analytical structure of Aquinas but married to the scientific ethos of discovery and exploration, later incarnate in the works of gents like Luther and the Reformation, Copernicus and Galileo, Newton and Kepler, Edison and Freud, and the modern Einstein who completed the liberation of economic, political and cultural control from religion to the secular world. The Institute of Cultural Affairs encapsulated this wisdom in its social process triangle.



Four as the quad of lower arms holding each other's wrists to form a square is present in the ways of the Sierras, the Yucatan and the Andes. The participatory method captured in the Base Communidad of South America is an example, and the Institute of Cultural Affairs out of Chicago formalized the method in its Technology of Participation (ToP@), now an independent offshoot, by relying on group brainstorm.

First to be identified is the playful naming of ISSUES that has impinged on anyone, however it is described, though preferably the description is grounded at the basic sense level of what folks see, hear, smell, taste and touch, so everyone can understand. The input is then gestalted so a plethora is manageable in chunks.

Next comes the identification of blocks on the road, constraints if one wanted to deal with the ISSUE, and the output is grouped into the more emotive but abstract language of CONTRADICTIONS.

On the CONTRADICTIONS, one then submits PROPOSALS to deal with them, this time going from the fuzzy and numinous to the concrete actions, transformed into either strategies, maneuvers and IMPLEMENTARIES, ensconced in timelines (when), location (where), roles (who), and story (why).

The Five is the mindset of the Pentagon, or, what would be a combination of the above for the thinking ones but ours is a strategic military location definitely entrenched in the Korean peninsula and after '53, with the sole purpose of containing China, or more ideologically, defending democracy from the encroachment of communism.

Were I to use the Social Process of economic, political, and cultural, the political pole being that of order, justice, and welfare, our Pentagon boys zero in on the foundational ORDER pole (for a copy of the SP triangle, email the author), heavy on military defense. But it is there, thinking in fives. Mine takes the economic and political as defined by the cultural, the meaning pole of wisdom, style, and symbol.

My symbol is that of the planet Earth, earthrise and earthbound.

Si Yuus Maase` Eloy

Our appointment came on the same day, though different roles. He took care of finance while I took charge of indigenous affairs. We took our oath of office together. It was the beginning of a long personal and professional relationship in and out of government.

The highlight of his career was the instrumental role he played in the transition from the old TTG to what is now the Federated States of Micronesia and Republics of Belau and Marshalls. It also took him to many hearings before the U.S. Congress in Washington.

It was also during his charge as head of finance that we announced to the U.S. Congress in the early '90s to discontinue any further grant funds from Washington. This took Congress by surprise, for no other territory has done this except the CNMI.

Inos was a master of figures and knew exactly how to juggle funds for the local government. But he also knew as well as others in key fiscal positions that the Retirement Fund would bankrupt the CNMI in no time. It has happened and has sent us limping every which way imaginable. I may not have been enamored by some of his decisions but I also remember the fighter in the ring.

At the personal level, he was a very compassionate friend who'd offer help to people that matter to him. He generously shared what he had, from income to the fish he caught in the open waters. Enjoyed the many discussions we had where he demonstrated his analytical forte and thoroughness.

Eloy fought his own battles and has succeeded where others have failed. Even in his health condition he fought like an old warrior in hopes of returning home soon. He's back home to rest in peace in an archipelago and its people he loves so dearly. Si Yuus Maase` Ñao for the wonderful and unique memories we've shared for many years. Our prayers! Kuñao JR and family.

Destiny: It's up to us!

Over the last year I've listened intently to the sentiments of our people young and old on important issues that matter to them. The young are revolting, itching and radically incensed to inflict change on sitting ducks or incumbents.

The discontent is fueled by the stagnant economy where salaries haven't moved an inch for 15 long years. It suffocates decent opportunities at home.

Then there's news that corruption has spread like wildfire among the elected elite who now cater to their rich donors trashing their constituents.

It is also rumored that two firms are ready to bankroll the reelection of their legislative lapdogs to protect their turf: single casino license and tax-free protection under the current law.

Appalling the air of superiority, lack of self-reflection and the view as being sacrosanct (too important to be bothered) and beyond scrutiny. Nah! We'd scrutinize them this midterm election.

This agenda piqued my curiosity why would the two firms interfere with NMI politics, the sole preserve of the indigenous people. If the firms were committed to improving the wellbeing of our people as good corporate citizens then they would have done two things from the outset:

1). Surrender the single license deal to grant another firm the same privilege to rake in more revenues or money.

2). Volunteer some 10-12 percent in annual taxes from backroom counting to shore up more funds for the local coffers. But these never happened which is a tale of their motives so distant from a commitment to making lasting difference here. Well, they are into gambling and are playing their cards right at this juncture. It has succeeded controlling the elected elite in its game plan.

It's obvious the hidden grand scheme behind a plan of hiring locals as their front people conditioned to spread good tidings of the industry. This agenda will crumble! So we're supposed to abandon over 500 years of indigenous heritage that held us together all these years? Is instant gratification a more lasting approach over the true and tried time-honored traditions of these isles?

The voice of our young people reveals a commitment to principled and high-minded ideals ready to take over the reins of leadership. They know they are permanent stakeholders on this journey and are imbued with the right values and attitudes to meet the challenges of the future with humility and responsibility. They know that innovation and initiative are central issues in their vision to allow the NMI to realize its potential.

One of the more scholarly young college graduate related that he knows the competitive advantage of a "clean, efficient, rational, and predictable or stable government." He said it ensures that government makes firm decisions so that there can be certainty and stability in the affairs of the people. "What's happening today is a design for permanent derailment of our livelihood and this isn't my vision of the future of our people." He's optimistic of the opportunity to reunite "so we decide our destiny."

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Guardrails abandoned

Over the last 37 years we've made progress in the concept of self-government. Public officials that took the exit had to deal with a temporary setting or federal penitentiary.

We assumed the attitude that the NMI, under its self-government, is a fully sovereign state. The feds came in and said "nah".

In 1979 politicians wanted a program for political reasons as to ignore critical review of its fiscal implications. It is now gift-wrapped in some $789 million in unfunded liability.

We were warned of the abuse of foreign workers but chose to ignore it. The feds came in and took over control of immigration.

We further learned we're not sovereign when the feds came in and investigated the Tinian Dynasty for unpaid taxes.

Our people, via a plebiscite, shot down casino twice. Our men of wisdom on imperial Capital Hill decided otherwise.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Saying goodbye to CNMI Gov. Eloy Inos

Editor's Note: The following is the text of Guam Speaker Judith T. Won Pat's Weekly Address that she issued yesterday.

Buenas yan Hafa Adai!

Today, we say goodbye to a great man. It is with a heavy heart that I join the people of Guam and ask the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to accept our deepest condolences for the loss of their statesman, Gov. Eloy Inos. The loss of such a great leader cannot be consoled, but his passion for his island and his people won't soon be forgotten. As CNMI's governor, he will be remembered for his strong leadership and unwavering commitment to the people and to the islands. As a friend to Guam and the rest of Micronesia, Gov. Inos will be remembered as an active partner in the effort to deepen and secure democracy for our region.

Gov. Inos' devotion to ensuring the welfare of his people earned the respect and admiration of countless communities in the CNMI and throughout Micronesia. His untimely passing has left CNMI without one of its most selfless and dedicated leaders. This loss will be greatly felt not only in the CNMI, but also here in Guam.

On behalf of *I Mina' Trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, I send our sincerest condolences. Our thoughts and prayers are with Governor Inos's family and the people of the CNMI during this difficult time.

Saina Ma'ase.

Speaker Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.
33rd Guam Legislature

How Facebook spreads falsehoods and paranoia

Why does misinformation spread so quickly on the social media? Why doesn't it get corrected? When the truth is so easy to find, why do people accept falsehoods?

A new study focusing on Facebook users provides strong evidence that the explanation is confirmation bias: people's tendency to seek out information that confirms their beliefs, and to ignore contrary information.

Confirmation bias turns out to play a pivotal role in the creation of online echo chambers. This finding bears on a wide range of issues, including the current presidential campaign, the acceptance of conspiracy theories and competing positions in international disputes.

The new study, led by Michela Del Vicario of Italy's Laboratory of Computational Social Science, explores the behavior of Facebook users from 2010 to 2014. One of the study's goals was to test a question that continues to be sharply disputed: When people are online, do they encounter opposing views, or do they create the virtual equivalent of gated communities?

Del Vicario and her coauthors explored how Facebook users spread conspiracy theories (using 32 public webpages); science news (using 35 such pages); and "trolls," which intentionally spread false information (using two webpages). Their data set is massive: It covers all Facebook posts during the five-year period. They explored which Facebook users linked to one or more of the 69 web pages, and whether they learned about those links from their Facebook friends.

In sum, the researchers find a lot of communities of like-minded people. Even if they are baseless, conspiracy theories spread rapidly within such communities.

More generally, Facebook users tended to choose and share stories containing messages they accept, and to neglect those they reject. If a story fits with what people already believe, they are far more likely to be interested in it and thus to spread it.

As Del Vicario and her coauthors put it, "users mostly tend to select and share content according to a specific narrative and to ignore the rest." On Facebook, the result is the formation of a lot of "homogeneous, polarized clusters." Within those clusters, new information moves quickly among friends (often in just a few hours).

The consequence is the "proliferation of biased narratives fomented by unsubstantiated rumors, mistrust and paranoia." And while the study focuses on Facebook users, there is little doubt that something similar happens on other social media, such as Twitter—and in the real world as well.

Striking though their findings are, Del Vicario and her coauthors do not mention the important phenomenon of "group polarization," which means that when like-minded people speak with one another, they tend to end up thinking a more extreme version of what they originally believed. Whenever people spread misinformation within homogenous clusters, they also intensify one another's commitment to that misinformation.

Of the various explanations for group polarization, the most relevant involves a potentially insidious effect of confirmation itself. Once people discover that others agree with them, they become more confident—and then more extreme.

In that sense, confirmation bias is self-reinforcing, producing a vicious spiral. If people begin with a certain belief, and find information that confirms it, they will intensify their commitment to that very belief, thus strengthening their bias.

Suppose, for example, that you think an increase in the minimum wage is a sensational idea, that the nuclear deal with Iran is a mistake, that Obamacare is working well, that Donald Trump would be a fine president, or that the problem of climate change is greatly overstated. Arriving at these judgments on your own, you might well hold them tentatively and with a fair degree of humility. But after you learn that a lot of people agree with you, you are likely to end up with much greater certainty—and perhaps real disdain for people who do not see things as you do.

On the basis of all the clustering, that almost certainly happened on Facebook. Strong support for this conclusion comes from research from the same academic team, which finds that on Facebook, efforts to debunk false beliefs are typically ignored—and when people pay attention to them, they often strengthen their commitment to the debunked beliefs.

Can anything be done? The best solution is to promote a culture of humility and openness. Some people, and some communities, hold their own views tentatively; they are interested in refutation, not just confirmation. Moroever, those who manage social media (such as Google) can take steps to allow people to assess the trustworthiness of what they are seeing, though these efforts might be controversial and remain in a preliminary state.

In the midst of World War II, a great federal judge, Learned Hand, said that the spirit of liberty is "that spirit which is not too sure that it is right." Users of the social media are certainly exercising their liberty. But there is a real risk that when they fall prey to confirmation bias, they end up compromising liberty's spirit—and dead wrong to boot.

By CASS R. SUNSTEIN
Bloomberg View

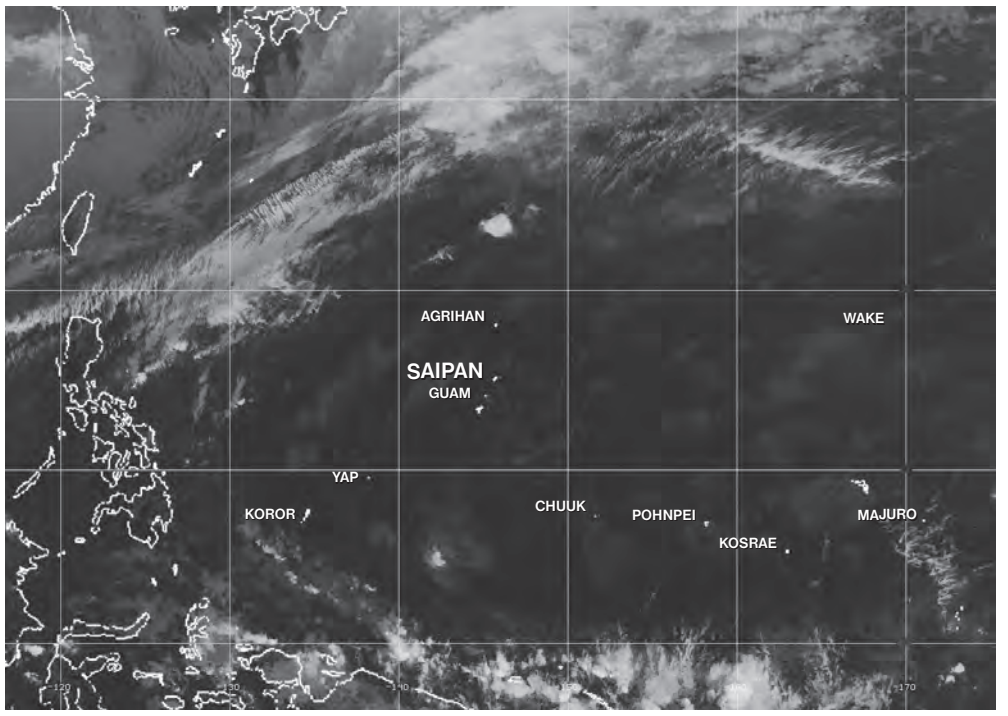
Cass R. Sunstein is a columnist for Bloomberg View*. He can be reached at csunstein1@bloomberg.net.*

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼74°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 12:33 PM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2016

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Low-level convergence is producing cloudiness, patchy rain and a few thunderstorms near Minami Tori Shima north of a line from 22N144E to 25N167E and west of Iwo To island west of a line from 17N132E to 19N135E to 25N135E. Trade wind cloudiness and a few showers are seen near the Marianas between 10N and 16N from 140E to 153E south of Koror within 100 miles of a line from 6N130E to EQ141E southeast of Yap within 200 miles of 6N143E and south of Kosrae and Majuro south of a line from 1N162E to 4N177E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼78
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼79
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼62
Beijing	Sunny	▲37	▼15
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼57
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼67
London	Mostly Sunny	▲45	▼32
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲67	▼46
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼73
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲107	▼62
Miami	Showers	▲70	▼55
New York	Ice	▲45	▼27
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲48	▼37
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲46	▼38
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲46	▼28
Rome	Sunny	▲57	▼40
Salem	Rain	▲49	▼46
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲62	▼54
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲37	▼19
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼32
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼22

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:49 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.4 Feet
10:38 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
4:31 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
9:28 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:46 AM	6:05 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:05 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:06 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:06 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:07 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:04 AM	9:10 PM
Thursday	9:52 AM	10:07 PM
Friday	10:39 AM	11:04 PM
Saturday	11:26 AM	
Sunday	12:13 PM	12:01 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 4, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5072/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2924/159	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

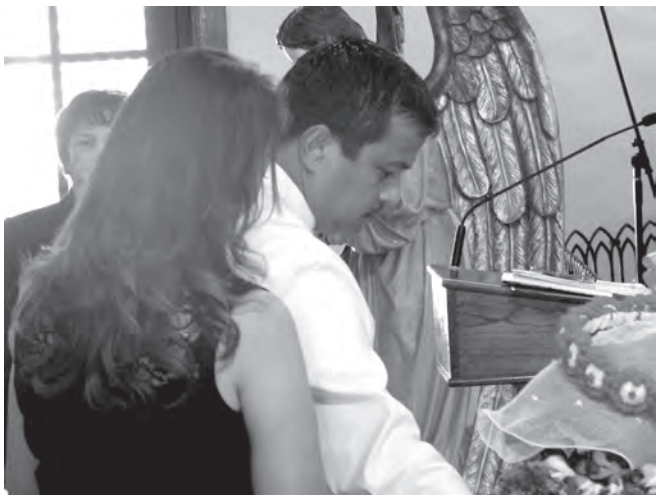
SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Gov. Inos is Laid to Rest



HOLY DOOR OF MERCY

OLY DOOR OF MERCY

Business

FOR 12TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

United MileagePlus is voted best frequent-flyer program

CHICAGO—Readers of *Global Traveler* voted United's MileagePlus loyalty program the Best Overall Frequent-Flyer Program in the world for 2015, marking the twelfth consecutive year that MileagePlus has received the award.

Global Traveler readers who participated in the 2015 GT Tested Reader Survey bestowed United with the honor, affirming MileagePlus' position as the industry's leading loyalty program.

Global Traveler readers also selected United as the Best Trans-Pacific Airline and, for the second straight year, named MileagePlus the Best Frequent-Flyer Bonus Program.

Thomas F. O'Toole, United's senior vice president, chief marketing officer and president of MileagePlus, accepted the honors at the annual *Global Traveler* awards dinner in Beverly Hills, California, earlier this month.

"The 2015 Global Traveler awards, voted on by savvy travelers worldwide, recognize our ongoing commitment to advancing United's service to our customers," said O'Toole. "We are particularly gratified that readers voted MileagePlus as the Best Overall Frequent-Flyer Program in the world for the twelfth consecutive year, which attests to our continued development of the industry's top loyalty program."

"Congratulations to our friends at United Airlines on their recent wins in our GT Tested Reader Survey awards. Twelve consecutive years as Best Frequent-Flyer Program is quite an accomplishment," said Francis X. Gallagher, publisher and CEO, *Global Traveler*. "United is not just a favorite of our readers, but also a favorite of our staff, and we can see why the carrier continues to win accolades year after year."

MileagePlus is United's industry-leading loyalty program. With a wide network of partners through which members may earn and redeem miles, MileagePlus offers the most "Saver" award seat availability among the largest U.S. global airlines, according to the sixth annual Switchfly Reward Seat Availability Survey published by IdeaWorksCompany in May 2015.

MileagePlus members earn award miles by flying United, United Express, Star Alliance airlines or other airline partners, and by purchasing products or services from partners around the globe. Members enjoy a host of options for using those award miles, including to pay for travel, hotel stays, car rentals and merchandise. ***(United)***

Lincoln revives the Continental, with eye on China

DETROIT (AP)—The Lincoln Continental has a storied past. Now it has a future.

The new Continental full-size sedan is set to debut Tuesday at the North American International Auto Show. It goes on sale this fall in the U.S. and China.

For most of Lincoln's 99-year history, the Continental was the pinnacle of luxury, the car of kings and presidents. It was born in 1938, when Henry Ford's son Edsel asked designers to make a convertible he could drive during a vacation to Palm Beach. Thrilled by his friends' reactions, Edsel made the Continental part of Ford Motor Co.'s luxury Lincoln brand.

But Ford faltered in the 1990s. It bought other luxury brands, like Jaguar and Aston Martin, and underestimated growing competition from Japanese and German luxury brands. Lincoln stopped making the Continental in 2002 so it could focus on a newer model, the LS. It eventually sold its other luxury brands. But Lincoln sales fell further.

Lincoln is reviving the Continental as part of a multi-year, multi-billion-dollar comeback. It's a nod to the history that sets Lincoln apart from its rivals. It's also targeted at customers in China, who have a particular appreciation for historic American brands. Lincoln expects to sell around 60 percent of the Continentals it makes in China, where it plans to double its dealerships to 60 by the end of this year.

Continental sales will likely be limited in the U.S. Sales of full-size sedan sales have been plummeting as midsize cars like the Lincoln MKZ get bigger and more luxurious. And while pricing hasn't been announced, the Continental will likely start around $50,000.

Irish drugmaker Shire in $32B deal for US-based Baxalta

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Irish drugmaker Shire PLC's second attempt to buy Baxalta looks more likely to succeed, with Baxalta's board backing the sweetened offer of $32 billion in cash and stock. If the deal goes through, the combined company would be one of the world's top 20 drugmakers by revenue and a leader in the sizzling niche of rare disease medicines.

Treatments for rare diseases—those affecting fewer than 200,000 Americans—are a hot, very lucrative research area, with drugmakers testing hundreds in clinical trials. The surge is driven by a combination of tax breaks, the lure of ultra-high drug prices, scientific advances such as the mapping of the human genome and advocacy groups for patients raising money to entice small drug developers to research treatments for their condition.

Meanwhile, there's an ongoing wave of drugmakers combining to increase revenue, quickly boost profit by trimming overlapping jobs and other expenses, and narrow their focus to diseases where they have the most expertise.

Shire and Baxalta Inc. said during a Monday conference call that their combined company will draw 65 percent of total revenue from rare disease treatments. They expect about $13 billion in sales from that category, and a total exceeding $20 billion annually, by 2020.

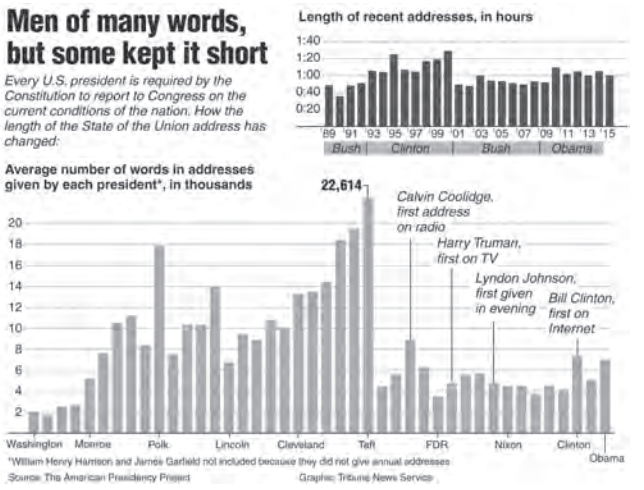
Shire said it will give Baxalta shareholders $18 in cash and a portion of a Shire share for each Baxalta share, for a per-share price of $45.57 based on Friday's closing price of Shire's U.S.-traded stock. Shares in both companies dropped on the news.

The companies said their combined hemophilia franchise will provide a foundation for a broader hematology and oncology business. The new company also would have strengths in diseases of the eye and gastrointestinal and endocrine systems.

Nation

Obama's final State of the Union address seeks to frame 2016 race

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's final State of the Union address will unmistakably attempt to frame the choice facing Americans as they select his successor, doling out an optimistic vision of the country's future in contrast with what he sees as the pessimism that's pervasive in the Republican primary.


Men of many words, but some kept it short
Every U.S. president is required by the Constitution to report to Congress on the current conditions of the nation. How the length of the State of the Union address has changed:
Length of recent addresses, in hours
1:40
1:20
1:00
0:40
0:20
'89 '91 '93 '95 '97 '99 '01 '03 '05 '07 '09 '11 '13 '15
Bush | Clinton | Bush | Obama
Average number of words in addresses given by each president*, in thousands
22,614
Calvin Coolidge, first address on radio
Harry Truman, first on TV
Lyndon Johnson, first given in evening
Bill Clinton, first on Internet
20
18
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
Washington Monroe Polk Lincoln Cleveland Taft FDR Nixon Clinton Obama
*William Henry Harrison and James Garfield not included because they did not give annual addresses
Source: The American Presidency Project
Graphic: Tribune News Service

Obama won't directly appeal for Americans to keep the Democratic Party in the White House for a third straight term. And he won't endorse a specific candidate in the 2016 race.

But he will outline domestic and international priorities that build on steps he's taken during his two terms in office, a vision certain to be more in line with Hillary Clinton and other Democrats than the GOP presidential candidates.

"He feels very optimistic about this future," White House chief of staff Denis McDonough said. "That, by the way, is something that's a little different than some of the doom and gloom that we hear from the Republican candidates out there every day."

Tuesday's prime-time address marks a transition for Obama—his last high-profile opportunity to speak to the public before voting begins on Feb. 1. While Obama has so far succeeded in staving off lame duck status—largely through a series of aggressive executive actions - the nation's attention has been drawn inevitably to the presidential contest. Still, Obama's reliance on executive powers means many of his actions could be erased by a Republican president. He's vowed to campaign aggressively for the Democratic nominee, and his administration is seen as favoring Clinton, though the president won't formally back a candidate during his party's primary.

Armed group says it has accessed government files at refuge

BURNS, Ore. (AP)—The leader of a small, armed group occupying a national wildlife refuge in southeastern Oregon said Monday he and his followers are going through government documents stored inside refuge buildings.

Ammon Bundy told reporters the documents will be used to "expose" how the government has discriminated against local ranchers who use federal land for cattle grazing.

Bundy said the documents would also help secure the release of Steven and Dwight Hammond, two area ranchers convicted of arson who returned to prison last week to serve longer sentences. The Hammonds' case set off the occupation of the Burns-area refuge on Jan. 2.

Bundy said his group is not accessing government computers at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, including personnel files.

After the news conference, the group drove in a convoy to a ranch near the refuge and tore down a stretch of government-erected fence. The goal, according to the armed men, was to give the rancher access to the range that had been blocked for years. It's not clear where the fence was located or which rancher sought the group's help.

The refuge is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Spokesman Jason Holm said because the documents and files at the refuge may have personally identifiable information, the agency "is taking necessary steps to ensure employee and family safety."

ACROSS THE NATION

Man charged in Baby Doe's death pleads not guilty to murder

BOSTON (AP)—A man charged with killing a 2-year-old girl who was dubbed Baby Doe after her body washed up on a Boston Harbor island pleaded not guilty Monday to first-degree murder. Michael McCarthy was held without bail at his arraignment in Suffolk Superior Court in the death of his girlfriend's daughter, Bella Bond. The girl was known for months as Baby Doe after her body was found in a trash bag by a dog walker in June and detectives searched for her identity. Her mother, Rachelle Bond, is accused of helping McCarthy conceal Bella's body. She has pleaded not guilty to being an accessory after the fact to murder and collecting welfare benefits after the child's death. Bond's lawyer says that she denies helping McCarthy in any way and that he had psychological control over her. McCarthy's lawyer laid blame for the girl's death on the mother.

Starvation suspected in massive die-off of Alaska seabirds

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Federal scientists in Alaska are looking for the cause of a massive die-off of one of the Arctic's most abundant seabirds, the common murre (mur). An estimated 8,000 murres were found dead last week off Whittier, a Prince William Sound community 60 miles south of Anchorage. U.S. Geological Survey researcher John Piatt (PEE'-aht) says winter die-offs of common murres have occurred before but the number at Whittier is unprecedented. Researchers say they appear to have starved to death. Laboratory tests have not found parasites or diseases in carcasses. U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologist Kathy Kuletz says warming ocean surface temperatures may be affecting the forage fish that common murres feed on.

Asia

Kim's nuke test proves gift of sorts for S. Korean president

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea's nuclear test has provoked global outrage, a push for sanctions, even fear. But Kim Jong Un's decision to conduct it has also handed a gift of sorts to his rival in the South.

In an instant, Wednesday's explosion shifted the focus of debate about the presidency of Park Geun-hye, who has faced several mass protests condemning her leadership in recent weeks.

Park's swift, hard-line response, including a return of cross-border propaganda broadcasts that Pyongyang loathes, has, for the time being, overshadowed criticism of her leadership style, her alleged abuse of workers' rights and her purported submission to Tokyo in a deal meant to end a dispute over Japan's wartime sexual enslavement of Korean women.

Park has temporarily stopped a slide in popularity by doing something she has proven herself adept at: Standing tall in the face of what Seoul sees as a provocation from its northern rival. A survey showed her approval rating rose slightly last week, for the first time in five weeks.

While the boost is likely temporary, the timing of the nuclear test may help Park and her ruling party. Crucial parliamentary elections loom in April.

The test is "immediately quieting down" the most contentious complaints against Park, said Yoon Tae-Ryong, a professor at Seoul's Konkuk University.

"Some members of the ruling party must be grinning inside."

Shortly after the North's test, Park put her front-line troops on their highest alert, reportedly moved missiles, artillery and other weapons closer to the border, partially banned South Koreans from a jointly run factory park in the North and allowed huge green speakers along the border to begin cranking out South Korean K-pop songs and criticism of the North's leadership.

US, PH to discuss concerns over new Chinese islands

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine foreign and defense chiefs will discuss with their American counterparts ways to address new security concerns arising from China's completion of artificial islands in the disputed South China Sea, an official said Monday.

Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Charles Jose said the Philippines will ask the United States to continue patrols to ensure freedom of navigation in the area, a strategic passageway for many commercial and military ships, during Tuesday's talks in Washington.

The possibility of joint patrols by the U.S. and its Asian security allies may also be discussed, he said.

Recent Chinese flights to test a runway on one of the seven man-made islands, Fiery Cross, have raised concerns that Beijing may plan to impose an air defense identification zone over the South China Sea, officially or otherwise, Jose said.

Vietnam and the Philippines opposed the Chinese flights.

"They can declare it officially or we may witness a de facto ADIZ," Jose said by telephone. "There's a need, therefore, to take actions showing that we won't recognize any such imposition."

In 2013, China declared such an aviation security buffer zone over the East China Sea, where Beijing and Tokyo have been contesting ownership of a chain of uninhabited islands. The U.S. and its allies led by Japan protested the action and announced they would not recognize the Chinese defense zone.

In the South China Sea, Beijing shooed away U.S. and Philippine planes even while it was building the islands from previously submerged reefs and atolls in the Spratly Islands, indicating its intention to control access to the region, Philippine diplomats said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, US seek roadmap to peace

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Four countries—Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and the United States—were cloistered away late into the night Monday trying to lay a foundation they hope will eventually lead to peace talks between the Afghan government and Taliban fighters. But in the end, the biggest decision that appeared to be reached was to meet again. Still an Afghan official, who was in the meeting but did not want to be identified because he is not authorized to speak to the media, said, "some good progress" was made during what turned out to be a marathon session. The Taliban were not invited to the talks and a Taliban official, in a rare face-to-face meeting with The Associated Press, said there would be no direct talks with the Afghan government without first talking to the United States. The final communique, however, seemed to rule that out. "The participants emphasized the immediate need for direct talks between representatives of the Government of Afghanistan and representatives from Taliban groups in a peace process that aims to preserve Afghanistan's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity," said the communique.

Giant golden statue of Mao demolished in central China

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese village has abruptly demolished a statue of communist China's founder, Mao Zedong, after images of the structure covered in gold paint and looming 37 meters (120 feet) high over farmland attracted heated discussion on social media. Although the official reason for the demolition is unknown, with even a high-level Communist Party newspaper struggling to explain the episode, the rise and fall of the Mao monument in central China's rural Henan province highlights the political sensitivities in the country surrounding a historical figure alternatively revered and criticized by both the public and the government. The project, reportedly financed by entrepreneurs, cost $460,000 and was near completion last week when it was nixed by local officials after images of the statue elicited mixed reactions on Chinese social media, and the story was picked up by domestic and international media.

5 dead, 65 injured in Cambodian garment worker truck crash

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Two trucks transporting Cambodian garment workers to their factory crashed Tuesday, killing five of the workers and injuring 65 others, officials said. The accident occurred early Tuesday morning as one truck sped up to overtake the other but collided with it, causing the vehicles to spiral out of control, said Ma Savath, a district governor in Kampong Speu province, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) southwest of the capital, Phnom Penh. "It was an unfortunate accident, and would not have happened if the driver had driven carefully," he said. A statement issued by the Ministry of Labor said the ministry would cover funeral expenses of the five dead and treatment of the 65 injure

World

Apparent easing of security precedes drug lord's recapture

LIMA, Peru (AP)—As the world's most hunted man, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman had to know the most sophisticated information and surveillance technology available was marshalled against him: satellites, unmanned aircraft, NSA and DEA eavesdroppers, malware-sowing Mexican state hackers.

Yet Guzman may have let his guard down before receiving Hollywood actors Sean Penn and Kate del Castillo three months ago on a remote central Mexico mountaintop in apparent hopes of getting a biopic made to his liking.

Authorities are not identifying whatever information security missteps may have led to Guzman's being recaptured Friday in a seaside town not far away.

"Whatever mistake or screw-up played a role, presumably the government is going to keep it secret. Because if El Chapo made this mistake others will make it in the future," said Christopher Soghoian, a surveillance expert with the American Civil Liberties Union.

Mike Vigil, a former head of international operations for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, said the Oct. 2 visit likely went undetected because Penn took "extraordinary" measures beforehand, apparently using disposable phones and changing numbers daily.

Neither actor took electronics to the meeting.

Instead, previously intercepted communications between Del Castillo and Guzman's lawyers were key—authorities knew about the movie plans and were closing on him well before Penn, on assignment for Rolling Stone, accompanied Del Castillo to the meeting she arranged, said Vigil, who was briefed.

AP

A security camera sits above a street sign on the exterior wall of the home where marines engaged in a gun battle during the search for Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, in Los Mochis, Mexico, Sunday, Jan. 10, 2016.

Aid convoys reach 3 Syria communities besieged for months

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—The U.N. humanitarian chief has called for Monday's delivery of aid to three besieged towns in Syria to be the first of many and welcomed a Syrian statement that such deliveries should be repeated and sustained.

Stephen O'Brien told reporters after briefing the U.N. Security Council behind closed doors that the arrival of convoys to help civilians in the three towns cut off for months by the war in Syria must not be "either one-off or exceptional."

The U.N. says 4.5 million Syrians are living in besieged or hard-to-reach areas and desperately need humanitarian aid, with civilians prevented from leaving and aid workers blocked from bringing in food, medicine, fuel and other supplies.

Reports of starvation and images of emaciated children have raised global concerns and underscored the urgency for new peace talks that the U.N. is hoping to host in Geneva on Jan. 25.

Aid convoys with food and other supplies reached three besieged villages on Monday—Madaya, near Damascus, where O'Brien said about 400 people need to be evacuated immediately to receive life-saving treatment for medical conditions, malnourishment and starvation, and the Shiite villages of Foua and Kfarya in northern Syria.

O'Brien said efforts will be made to get ambulances to Madaya on Tuesday to evacuate the 400 people, of all ages, if safe passage can be assured.

IS claims responsibility for Baghdad mall attack

BAGHDAD (AP)—The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the Baghdad mall attack that killed 18 people on Monday. Gunmen stormed into the Jawhara Mall after setting off a car bomb and launching a suicide attack at its entrance.

Iraqi officials say the attack which lasted over an hour, killed at least 18 people and wounded 50 in the city's mainly Shiite east.

The IS statement, posted online shortly after the attack, said a car bomb and four IS fighters carried out the attack, targeting an area where many Shiite Muslims are known to gather and warned of "worse" to come. Iraqi officials say the attack was carried out by seven men, one of whom died when he detonated his explosive vest at the start of the attack. The conflicting accounts could not immediately be reconciled.

Iraqi officials initially described the attack as a hostage situation, estimating that 50 people were trapped inside the complex. But Iraqi forces soon surrounded the building and landed troops on the roof. They clashed with the attackers inside, killing two of them, and arresting the other four.

At least four police officers were among those killed in the assault, which lasted around an hour and a half, according to police and medical officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters.

Following the attack, authorities shut down the city's highly fortified Green Zone, home to a number of foreign embassies and most of the country's political elite.

Good Housekeeping

5 healthy home habits to start in 2016

By OSEYE BOYD
ANGIE'S LIST

It's the time of year when we're inundated with articles on how to be healthy, start good-for-you habits and dump the bad ones. But, what about giving some attention to another major investment in your life—your home.

To help get your home in tip-top shape, here are five healthy home habits to start in the upcoming year:

1. Create a home maintenance and repair budget

Don't break the bank when your washing machine stops or the hot water heater leaks. Create a budget now for expected maintenance projects, and set aside extra funds for those unexpected, emergency repairs that always seem to occur at the most inopportune time. According to financial pros, you can expect to spend about 1 to 4 percent of your home's value annually on repairs and maintenance.

2. Clean refrigerator condenser coils

Help your refrigerator live longer and stay cool by cleaning the condenser coils. Appliance repair pros say it's the No. 1 refrigerator maintenance task. Condenser coils, which are located under or behind the refrigerator, eventually become covered with dust and pet hair. Keeping the condenser coils clean can save up to 10 percent on your energy bill. A professional cleaning costs around $100. However, you can do it yourself with a vacuum cleaner and an inexpensive coil brush.

HGTV's Joanna Gaines designed farmhouse kitchen table, chairs and china cabinet from her new Magnolia Home Collection.
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE/TNS

3. Service your garage door

Regular garage door maintenance ensures safety and helps prevent costly repairs. In many houses, the garage door is the most used door—and it's a big, heavy one. Hire a garage door pro to check the tracks, rollers and hinges; tighten screws and bolts and lubricate the moving parts. According to professionals and Angie List members, garage door inspections cost $40 to $100.

4. Hire a chimney sweep

Regardless of whether you use a wood-burning fireplace or a gas log fireplace. A gas fireplace burns clean, meaning there's no creosote or soot, but you want to be sure the ceramic logs, valves and connections work properly. A gas log fireplace poses the risk of carbon dioxide poisoning if not properly ventilated.

For wood-burning fireplaces, highly flammable creosote builds up in the chimney walls and can cause a fire if not removed. The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) advises hiring a Chimney Safety Institute of America (CSIA) Certified Chimney Sweep.

Also, inspect the chimney for debris, such as bird nests or other objects that could block ventilation.

5. Schedule a furnace tune-up

Annual furnace inspections and cleanings cost less than $100, but can potentially save you hundreds of dollars in repairs by keeping your HVAC system in optimal working condition and catching problems early. HVAC maintenance contracts typically cost $150 to $500 per year. Don't forget to change the furnace filter as a clogged air filter puts extra stress on your HVAC system.

Zinc-topped Magnolia Home kitchen island.
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE/TNS

HGTV's 'Fixer Upper' host introduces furniture line

By PATRICIA SHERIDAN
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

HIGH POINT, N.C.—The Standard Furniture showroom felt more like a gathering of rock groupies than a furniture introduction. Hundreds of enthusiastic fans of the HGTV show "Fixer Upper" filled the showroom waiting for stars Chip and Joanna Gaines. The couple from Waco, Texas, brought their four young children to debut the collection Magnolia Home by Joanna Gaines. The collection has six genres: Primitive, Boho, Industrial, Farmhouse, French Inspired and Traditional.

"It was the fastest turnaround I have ever seen," said Roy Yates, chief merchandising officer for Standard Furniture. "It went from conception to production in 100 days."

Joanna Gaines, who designed each item, said her influences include her frequent flea market expeditions. On the show, she is often seen working late into the night.

"I have always been kind of wired that I do best under pressure," she said. "It was fun lighting a candle, turning up the music and starting to draw out ideas. That was my favorite part."

Gaines said it was a big undertaking, but she was excited about designing furniture for the manufacturer based in Bay Minette, Ala. "It is something I am passionate about. It was worth the late nights."

A big fan of French doors and kitchen islands, she often incorporates them into the houses she and her husband rehab for the show. So islands are among the 400 products included in the collection of furniture and accessories.

"All the hardware we had custom-made for her," said Tom Ussery, executive vice president of sales for Standard.

No two pieces are exactly alike because they are hand-finished with paint brushes. The brush marks give the furniture a very authentic found feel.

The collection's six categories cover all of the bases. Boho has mid-century modern elements and Farmhouse features worn finishes and scalloped edges. French Inspired has a vintage vibe, while Industrial incorporates aged metals. Primitive uses simple carving and turned legs but is not the same as Traditional, which is just that with a fresh twist. There are six painted finishes and five wood finishes.

"Seeing the collection in real life exceeded my expectations," Gaines said, comparing it to the feeling she gets when she and her husband finish a house.

COMFORT FOOD

Mexican Bean Soup

By HEALTHY EXCHANGES
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

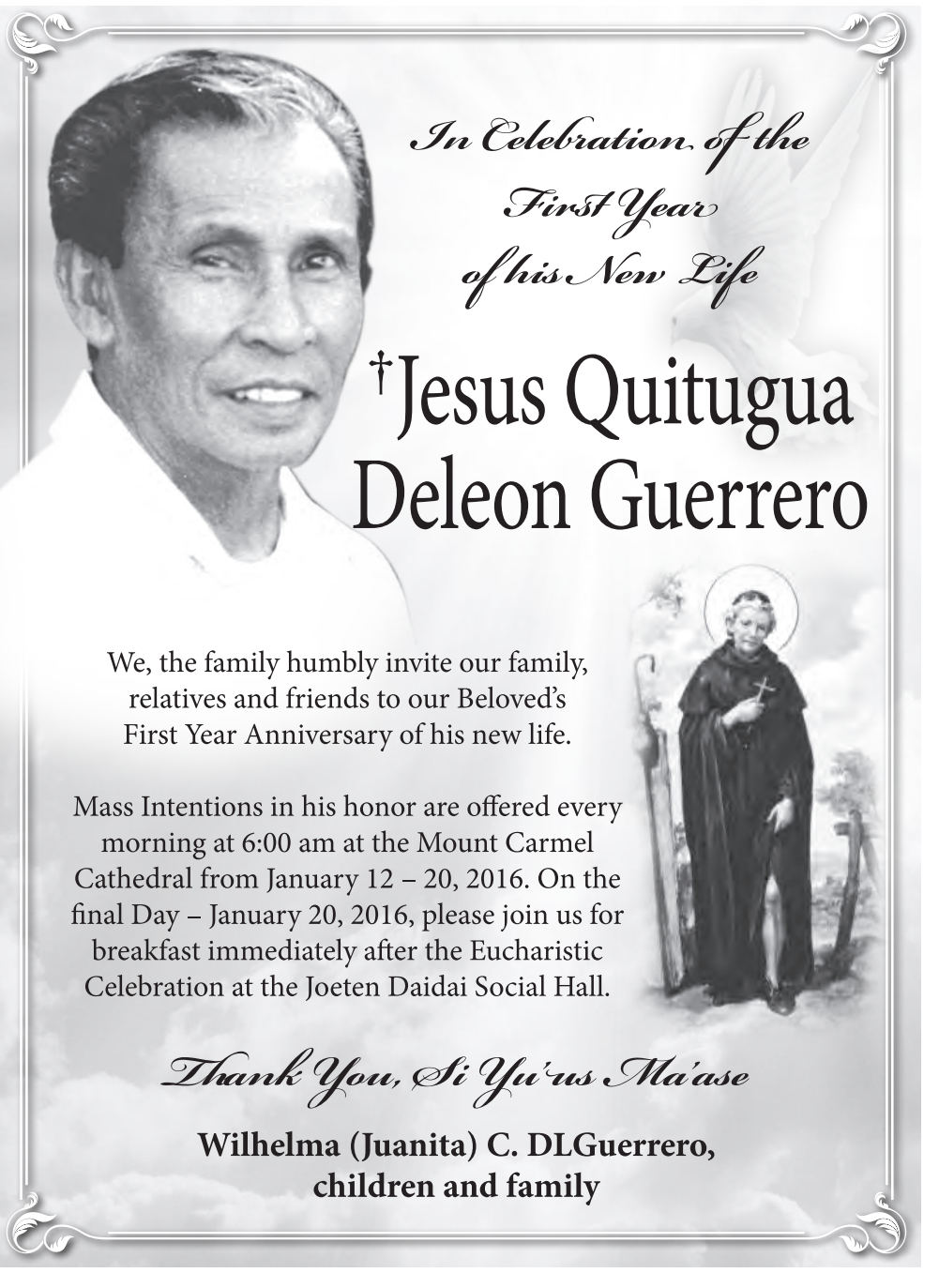
Your first spoonful of this, and you'll almost think you're somewhere in Mexico!

8 ounces extra-lean ground sirloin beef or turkey breast
1 cup finely chopped onion
1 cup shredded carrots
1 (14-ounce) can Swanson Lower Sodium Fat Free Beef Broth
1 (15-ounce) can pinto beans, rinsed and drained
2 teaspoons dried parsley flakes
1 1/2 teaspoons chili seasoning

1. In a large saucepan, saute meat, onion and carrots for 10 minutes. Stir in beef broth and pinto beans. Add parsley flakes and chili seasoning. Mix well to combine.

2. Bring mixture to a boil. Lower heat and simmer for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Makes 4 (1 cup) servings.

** Each serving equals: 172 calories, 4g fat, 16g protein, 18g carb., 408mg sodium, 5g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 2 Meat, 1 Starch, 1 Vegetable.*


In Celebration of the
First Year
of his New Life
†Jesus Quitugua
Deleon Guerrero
We, the family humbly invite our family,
relatives and friends to our Beloved's
First Year Anniversary of his new life.
Mass Intentions in his honor are offered every
morning at 6:00 am at the Mount Carmel
Cathedral from January 12 – 20, 2016. On the
final Day – January 20, 2016, please join us for
breakfast immediately after the Eucharistic
Celebration at the Joeten Daidai Social Hall.
Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Wilhelma (Juanita) C. DLGuerrero,
children and family

Life & Style

Bowie lauded as an artist who made it OK to be different

NEW YORK (AP)—It's perhaps not so surprising that the word "androgynous" was spiking on the Merriam-Webster online dictionary after David Bowie's death was announced, as people looked up a word so commonly mentioned in connection with the rock star's blazingly unique style.

But while the word aptly describes much of Bowie's chameleon-like appeal, there was another, deeper association being mentioned by some in the aftermath of Bowie's death: the idea that the singer was a crucial source of support—perhaps even to the point of saving lives—for youngsters uncertain about their identity or sexuality in an era when gender fluidity was much less accepted than it is today.

"David Bowie showed this queer kid from Baton Rouge that gender outlaws are cool," wrote singer-songwriter Mary Gauthier on Twitter. "Androgyny=rock&roll, not a reason to kill myself."

AP
In this Sept. 14, 1995, file photo, David Bowie performs in Hartford, Conn.

Gauthier, 53, explained in an interview that she'd stumbled upon Bowie's famous Ziggy Stardust persona—the flame-haired, body-suited, sexually ambiguous alien rock star from his 1972 album "The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars"—when she was 14 or 15. "I was clearly aware that I was a gender outlaw," she said. "Being androgynous didn't sit well in Baton Rouge in 1974 or 1975. I hung out with outsiders. Bowie gave them hope, and me hope.

"I do think his work saved thousands of gender-different kids," Gauthier said. She added: "It wasn't a matter of what he was saying or arguing, it was a matter of how he was appearing. It may have been a show, but it was authentic."

"He showed us there was a bigger world out there," Gauthier said.

While the specific words may have been different, similar thoughts—the idea of Bowie making those who felt somehow different feel more welcome—came from far and wide on Monday, a day after Bowie died at age 69 following an 18-month battle with cancer that was not publicly disclosed.

One of those expressing such thoughts was Madonna, who spoke of Bowie's androgynous image as easing the way for her as a young person.

"I never felt like I fit in growing up in Michigan," the pop star wrote on Facebook. "Like an oddball or a freak. I went to see him in concert ... We got caught after, and I was grounded for the summer. I didn't care. I already had many of his records and was so inspired by the way he played with gender confusion. Was both masculine and feminine. Funny and serious. Clever and wise."

Actress Evan Rachel Wood wrote on Twitter that Bowie "always made me feel less alone in this crazy world." And filmmaker Guillermo del Toro, also on Twitter, wrote that "Bowie existed so all of us misfits learned that an oddity was a precious thing. He changed the world forever."

As many pointed out, it wasn't about Bowie's own orientation—he made a few contradictory statements over the decades about his sexuality, but the father of two had been married to wife Iman for more than two decades at his death and was previously married to a model/actress—but the sense of liberation he gave others.

"David Bowie will always hold a special place in the hearts of many LGBT people," said Sarah Kate Ellis, CEO and president of GLAAD, in an email message. "He was a beacon for all those who felt alienated because of their gender identity or sexual orientation, helped many to understand and accept themselves, continually challenged gender norms, and proved that being different is not only okay—it is something to be proud of."

Gauthier, the singer, noted that for her, Bowie's key message had nothing to do with sexual orientation.

"It's about gender," she said. "He shattered the binary idea of gender—as being male or female—and he created that middle. He showed us what a man looked like in a dress, and it was beautiful. There was an inner femininity, but it was masculine, too."

And he was the essential outsider, she said; in fact, he gave the impression of coming from outer space, so other-worldly was his ethereal appearance.

"But he was MORE than human," Gauthier added, "and not less than human. That's an important difference."

Outback pub toasts David Bowie, its most famous visitor

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Drinkers at a dusty Outback pub raised their beer glasses Tuesday to the pub's most famous visitor, David Bowie.

More than three decades ago, the mercurial musician made the 650-kilometer (400-mile) drive from Sydney to the tiny outpost of Carinda in parched western New South Wales state to shoot the video for his 1983 hit "Let's Dance" at Carinda's only pub.

The pub's current owner, Malcolm George, said the town of fewer than 200 people hadn't known that Bowie was coming. And they have never been allowed to forget the visit, which took their rustic watering hole to a global audience.

"People still come in asking, Is this is the pub where Bowie sang?" George said.

George said that only one of the local extras who appeared in those smoky bar scenes still lives in the town. But news late Monday (Australian East Time) that Bowie had died immediately boosted business.

"It's been nonstop," George said.

He said that when he bought the pub a year ago, it was in disrepair. Many of the brown and green tiles had fallen from the wall that had formed a blond Bowie's backdrop as he sang and strummed his guitar. But George stripped tiles from elsewhere in the pub to restore that iconic surface.

Marie Draper, who works behind the bar, said a week rarely goes by without a tourist gravitating to that wall.

"We do get quite a few tourists who come through," Draper said. "They ask where the spot is and stand in front of the tiles and get their photos taken."

Draper has lived in Carinda all her life, but wasn't around when Bowie visited. She couldn't comment on local legend that Bowie paid the local extras by offering to pay for everyone in the bar's drinks.

"It created a lot of excitement around here at the time," Draper said.

Playboy Mansion for sale but Hugh Hefner wants to stay put

LOS ANGELES (AP)—For $200 million, the Playboy Mansion, where risque parties have raged for decades, could be yours.

But you might want to think twice if you're aiming to close escrow on the famous property that went on the market Monday and move in quickly, since Playboy Magazine founder and party master Hugh Hefner has often said he will never live anywhere else.

"A condition on the sale would be that Mr. Hefner be able to continue to work and live in the residence," Playboy spokesman John Vlautin said.

Negotiations between the seller and buyer would determine whether the 89-year-old playboy stays for free or rents the place back.

The 5-acre (2-hectare) property in Los Angeles' exclusive Holmby Hills has seen thousands of celebrities and beautiful women pass through its doors.

It features 29 rooms, game house, home theater, wine cellar, gym, tennis court, swimming pool and four-bedroom guest house. It also comes with the notorious cave-like grotto where Playboy bunnies have long frolicked with guests.

Still, potential buyers have to ask if the two-story Gothic-Tudor home built in 1927 is worth $200 million, particularly when a 7-acre (3-hectare) estate nearby sold last year for $59 million?

"Maybe $90 million. But $200 million? That's absurd," said Realtor Rory Barish, who has sold numerous properties in the area.

"But he can ask whatever he wants and there could be one freak out there, a trillionaire, who comes and says, 'I have to have it,'" Barish quickly added.

High-profile Hollywood publicist Michael Levine, who has been to the mansion dozens of times, dismissed its price tag as preposterous.

China's Wanda buys Legendary Entertainment for $3.5 billion

BEIJING (AP)—Wanda Group announced Tuesday it is buying Hollywood's Legendary Entertainment, the maker of films such as "Batman," for $3.5 billion in the first Chinese acquisition of a major U.S. film company.

Wanda, whose chairman, Wang Jianlin, is one of China's richest businesspeople, has expanded rapidly into the film industry. It bought the U.S. cinema chain AMC in 2012 and is developing an $8 billion studio complex in eastern China.

New but cash-rich Chinese companies are on a buying spree abroad in industries from finance to yacht building for assets that can speed their development at home and help them expand in global markets.

With its latest acquisition, Wanda's film businesses will include a full range of production, distribution and exhibition, Wang said in a statement. The company, headquartered in the northeastern port city of Dalian, also has interests in hotels, retailing and real estate.

Legendary's productions include the "Batman" trilogy, "Inception" and "The Hangover." The company says its movies have grossed more than $12 billion worldwide.

"Wanda will help Legendary increase its market opportunities, especially in the fast-growing China market," said Wang.

Wanda's latest purchase is the fourth-largest Chinese investment in the United States, according to Dealogic, a financial information provider. It ranks behind WH Group Ltd.'s $7 billion acquisition of pork packer Smithfield Foods in 2013, the Chinese sovereign wealth fund's 2007 purchase of a 9.9 percent stake in Morgan Stanley for $5.6 billion and Unisplendour Corp.'s offer of $3.7 billion this year for 15 percent of Western Digital Corp.

Global film, music and television companies see China and its increasingly prosperous population of 1.3 billion potential viewers as one of their most promising markets. Even as economic growth slows, China's consumer spending is expanding faster than that of the United States and other Western markets.

Sean Penn defends interview with Mexican drug lord

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Actor Sean Penn dismissed criticism of his interview with Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman in a supposedly secret meeting that authorities say helped them track down the world's most-wanted trafficker.

"I've got nothin' to hide," Penn told The Associated Press after images published Monday indicated he was under surveillance when he met with the Mexican actress who led him to Guzman—and the pair was apparently followed and photographed as they set out for the meeting with the drug lord at a hideout in rural Mexico in October.

The actor also shrugged off a suggestion that he was "taking hits" for agreeing to submit his article to Guzman prior to publication by Rolling Stone magazine.

"No, you're reading hits," he said in a brief email exchange with The AP. In the article, Penn said Guzman requested no changes.

Guzman, who has escaped twice from Mexican maximum security prisons and is being sought for extradition by the United States, was recaptured on Friday after a bloody shootout in the city of Los Mochis in his home state of Sinaloa. He had been on the run of six months.

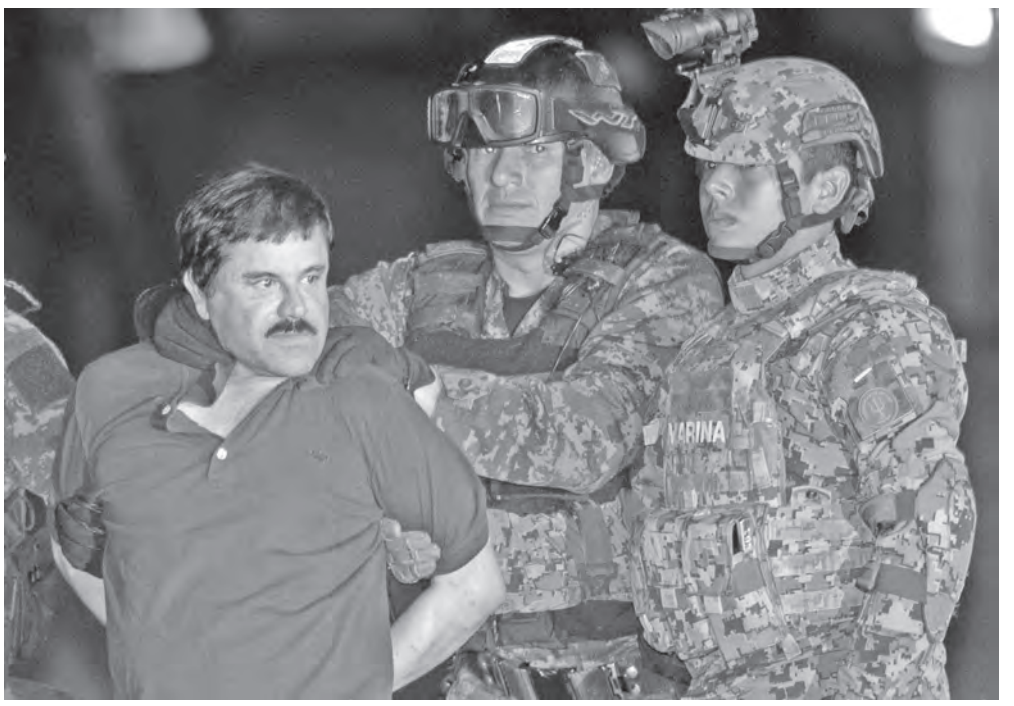
Late Monday evening, Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto referenced Guzman's capture in a short new year's message to the nation.

"The detention of the world's most wanted criminal is a credit to the coordination of our institutions in favor of security and the rule of law," Pena Nieto said. "With this action, 98 of the 122 most dangerous criminals no longer present a threat to society and we are going for all of them."

Mexico has begun the process of extraditing Guzman to the U.S., where he faces drug-trafficking charges, but that could take "a year or longer" because of legal challenges, said the head of Mexico's extradition office, Manuel Merino. He cited one extradition case that took six years.

Penn's interview with Guzman was published the day after the drug lord was recaptured.

Mexican officials have said that contacts between Guzman's lawyers and Penn and actress Kate del Castillo helped them track down the fugitive and they raided his hideout in rural Durango state a few days after their Oct. 2 meeting. Guzman evaded authorities then, but was finally captured months later in Los Mochis.



AP

In this Friday, Jan. 8, 2016 photo, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman is made to face the press as he's escorted to a helicopter in handcuffs by soldiers and marines at a federal hangar in Mexico City.

Penn wrote in the Rolling Stone article of elaborate security precautions, including switching phones. As he flew to Mexico for the meeting, he wrote, "I see no spying eyes, but I assume they are there."

He was right—and they had apparently been following del Castillo for months based on contacts with Guzman's lawyers.

The Mexican newspaper El Universal published 10 images Monday that appeared to show Penn being monitored as he arrived in Mexico.

In the photographs, Penn, wearing dark glasses and a baseball cap, is shown arriving with Del Castillo at an airport, then at a hotel, and greeting the men who apparently took them to a small airstrip, from which they flew to the jungle camp to meet Guzman. The newspaper said the photos were part of a Mexican government intelligence file it had obtained.

Penn has stressed that he doesn't think his communications were tracked, and in an interview with a local radio station, Attorney General Arely Gomez said that Mexican investigators were following the movements of one of Guzman's lawyers, not necessarily Penn or Del Castillo.

Asked whether Penn or del Castillo were under investigation, Gomez said a "new line" of inquiry had been opened that could include them or Guzman's lawyers, and could involve "covering up" for Guzman "or something bigger."

In an article accompanying the photos, El Universal said Mexican agents were aware of and following del Castillo's contacts with Guzman's lawyers since at least June. Del Castillo has not commented, but Penn wrote in Rolling Stone that Guzman was interested in having a movie made of his life and wanted del Castillo, who had portrayed a drug trafficker in a Mexican television series, involved in the project.

It was not Penn's first foray into Latin American life and politics.

Trump submits to presidential 'job interview' on 'Tonight'

NEW YORK (AP)—Everybody knows Donald Trump is seeking new employment.

So it was fitting that, during an appearance on NBC's "Tonight Show" on Monday, the GOP presidential hopeful submitted to a mock "job interview" by host Jimmy Fallon.

Referring to his clipboard, Fallon asks Trump why he wants the job.

"To make America great again," Trump replies.

Then he playfully touts his handsomeness and "beautiful head of hair," adding, "I always worked hard."

His greatest strength? "Believe it or not, bringing people together."

Fallon asks if he is willing to relocate.

Trump says, "I LOVE the White House."

But he was upfront about one possible performance flaw. If hired for such a high-profile job as chief executive, Trump joked that he would be "very, very uncomfortable" with all the media attention.

Rupert Murdoch is engaged to Jerry Hall

LONDON (AP)—Media mogul Rupert Murdoch has announced his engagement to Jerry Hall, the American actress and former supermodel who had a long-time relationship with Mick Jagger.

Murdoch, 84, and Hall, 59, placed a classified ad Monday in the Births, Marriages and Deaths section of the Times newspaper, which is owned by Murdoch's News Corporation.

Murdoch, the executive chairman of News Corporation, and Hall have been dating since late summer after being introduced by one of Murdoch's sisters and his niece in his native Australia, the Times reported in a story posted online. They made their relationship public in October when they appeared together at the Rugby World Cup Final in London and got engaged last weekend while attending the Golden Globes awards in Los Angeles.

"They have loved these past months together, are thrilled to be getting married and excited about their future," a spokesperson for the Murdoch family told the Times.

Murdoch has six children from his three previous marriages. He was married to Patricia Booker, an Australian, and then to Scottish-born journalist Anna Torv. He later married Chinese-born Wendi Deng, whom he divorced in 2013.

Hall, a Texas native, moved to Paris as a teenager to pursue a modeling career. She was one of the most photographed supermodels in the 1970s and dated Roxy Music's lead singer Bryan Ferry. She entered a long-term relationship with the Rolling stones frontman in the late 1970s.

Hall and Jagger had an unofficial private Hindu marriage ceremony in Bali, Indonesia, in 1990, but during divorce proceedings in 1999 a British court declared the marriage invalid.

Frustrated mom takes out her anger on her children

DEAR ABBY: I am the mother of four. My children are wonderful, but they really don't listen. Instead of sitting down and talking to them, I scream and call them names. Then, after they go to sleep, I feel extremely guilty.

My 12-year-old girl struggles in school. I have tried to be calm and help her. But I become easily frustrated and give up. Then I start to scream and tell her she'll never get it.

I'm afraid I am damaging my child in the long run. How can I control my anger so I can help her succeed?

ANGRY IN EL PASO

DEAR ANGRY: While both involve anger, you are really asking me about two separate issues. Let me first respond to the second one, your inability to help your 12-year-old academically.

As you may already know, not all people absorb information the same way. Some of us are visual learners, others are auditory learners, and some may have a learning disability that requires help from a trained professional. Your daughter may be one of these.

I'm willing to bet that when you scream at her, you are really screaming at yourself because of your frustration at being unable to get through to her. I have a booklet that may help you calm yourself before you get angry with your children. It can be ordered by sending your name and mailing address, plus a check or money order for $7 in U.S. funds, to Dear Abby -- Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Most adults learn from childhood how to manage their anger. However, it is equally important to learn to express anger in ways that are not destructive. Being in touch enough with your emotions that you can say, "When you do that (or say that), it makes me angry," can help you calm yourself before you explode, and it will also earn you the respect of others.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for 35 years. Every year, he takes a week off to go to another state and play golf. When he returns, he compiles all the photos he has taken onto a disk. He would let me see the photos on the computer after the first couple of golf trips, but on this last one, he refused to show me any.

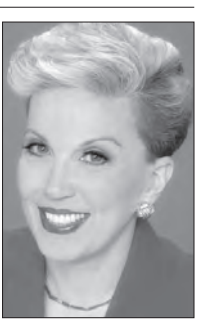
This is a big red flag for me that he's doing something more than just golfing. I might add that there is a lot of alcohol consumed, along with hot tub parties at the motel where he stays. I'm interested in what you think might be going on during these trips.

LEFT BEHIND IN IDAHO

DEAR LEFT BEHIND: People don't usually become secretive unless they have something to hide. Since you asked, I suspect that if he was proud of what went on, he would have shown you the pictures.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

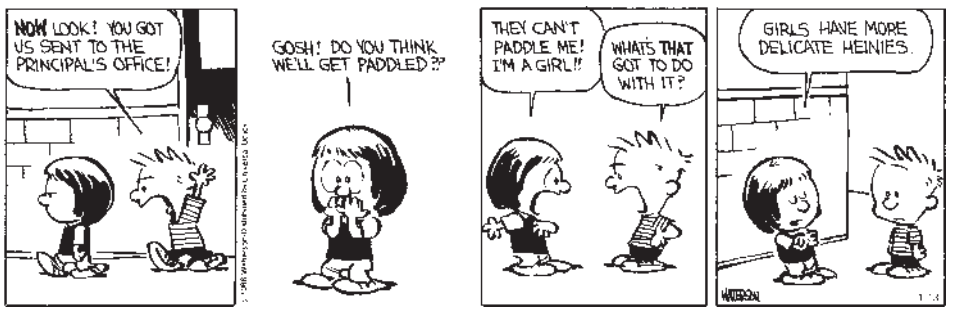


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

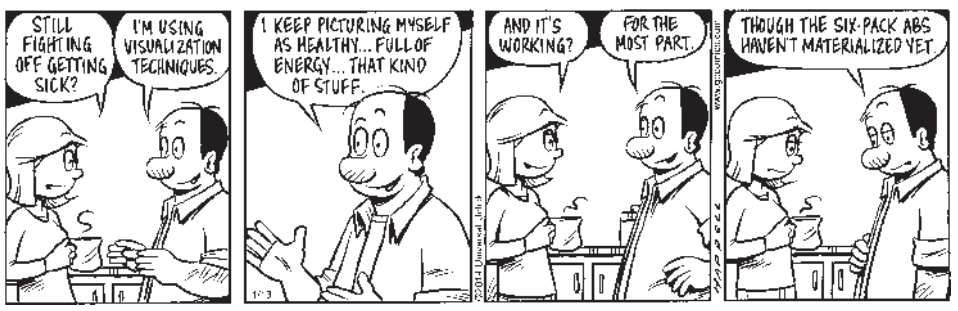

NOW LOOK! YOU GOT US SENT TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE!
GOSH! DO YOU THINK WE'LL GET PADDLED?
THEY CAN'T PADDLE ME! I'M A GIRL!
WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH IT?
GIRLS HAVE MORE DELICATE HEINIES.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

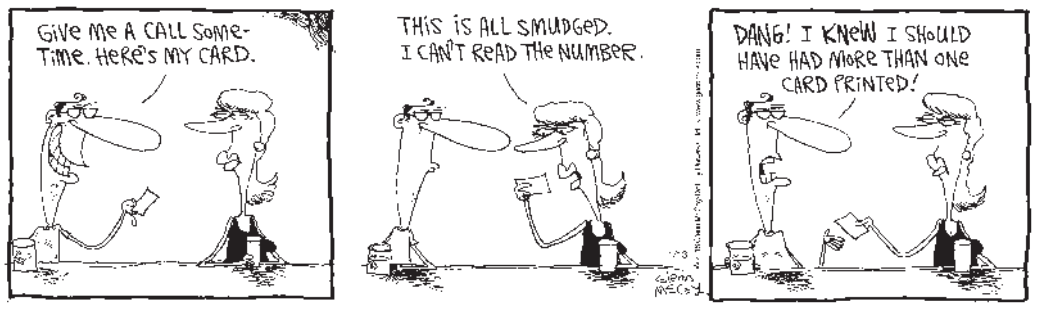
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


STILL FIGHTING OFF GETTING SICK?
I'M USING VISUALIZATION TECHNIQUES.
I KEEP PICTURING MYSELF AS HEALTHY... FULL OF ENERGY... THAT KIND OF STUFF.
AND IT'S WORKING?
FOR THE MOST PART.
THOUGH THE SIX-PACK ABS HAVEN'T MATERIALIZED YET.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


Give me a CALL Some-Time. Here's MY CARD.
THIS IS ALL SMUDGED. I CAN'T READ THE NUMBER.
DANG! I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE HAD MORE THAN ONE CARD PRINTED!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Quick swim
4 Arizona tribe
8 Paris eatery
12 Patience — virtue
13 Border on
14 Not "fer"
15 Brief time out?
16 Church fund-raiser handout
18 Giraffe's kin
20 Table scrap
21 Standing on
24 Explode
28 Indian tea spice
32 Fly alone
33 "Bravo!"
34 Ocean motions
36 Take to court
37 ATM output
39 It gets punched at work
41 Like bar beer
43 First-rate
44 Born
46 Berth places
50 Sweaters with buttons
55 Evil laugh
56 Slender wood-wind
57 Both (Pref.)
58 Go off — tangent
59 Sword fight
60 Actress Cannon
61 Dazzle

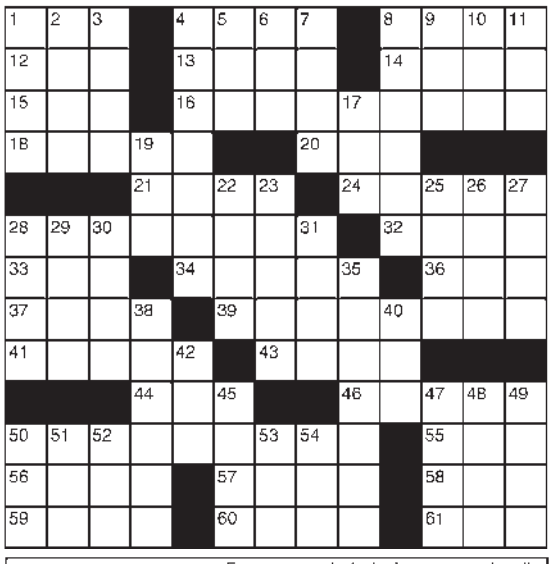
DOWN

1 Flint-stones' pet
2 Karen Blixen, aka — Dinesen
3 Mama's guy
4 — for Humanity
5 Osaka sash
6 Bit of wit
7 "Let —!" ("Stop worry-ing!")
8 Desert flower
9 Eastern title
10 Alpine tree
11 Wrap up
17 Planet
19 Memo tablet
22 Skip
23 Platforms for con-ductors
25 Activist Parks
26 Hurtful comment
27 Two- — sloth
28 Chic Chanel
29 Arkin of films
30 Sit for a bit
31 Short letter
35 Submits by mail
38 "Water Music" composer
40 Corp. boss
42 JFK Library architect
45 Quaint oath
47 GI's meal
48 Vegas game
49 Play-wright Irwin
50 Bay State cape
51 — Dhabi
52 Fish eggs
53 Youngest March girl
54 Hoops org.

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	L	I	T	■	F	R	A	Y	■	P	A	W
M	E	H	E	■	O	H	N	O	■	I	■	A
P	I	K	E	S	P	E	A	K	■	Z	E	N
■	■	■	P	I	S	A	■	O	O	Z	E	D
L	A	P	E	L	■	■	C	O	L	A	■	■
A	L	E	E	■	C	A	N	D	P	A	S	■
D	O	A	■	A	M	I	N	O	■	I	S	L
D	U	C	T	T	A	P	E	■	M	E	S	A
■	■	E	A	R	N	■	■	G	U	S	T	Y
H	I	P	P	O	■	P	E	A	S	■	■	■
A	V	I	■	J	A	H	K	P	L	A	C	E
L	A	P	■	H	A	I	G	■	I	C	A	N
E	N	E	■	Y	A	M	S	■	N	E	R	D

Yesterday's answer 1-13



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Liam Hemsworth, 26; Orlando Bloom, 39; Patrick Dempsey, 50; Julia Louis-Dreyfus, 55.

Happy Birthday: Don't let demands or guilt stand in the way of your progress. Refuse to let your emotions hold you back. You have to focus on what will bring you the highest returns. Joint ventures are best avoided, along with lending, borrowing or taking on someone else's responsibilities. This is your year to succeed, so don't limit your gains by being too accommodating. Your numbers are 7, 12, 15, 24, 31, 37, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Silence will buy you time. As long as no one knows what you are up to, you will achieve your goals and set the stage for what's to come. Someone will disappoint you or interfere with your plans if you share too much. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Do whatever it takes to resolve a pending problem and get on with your life. You will meet someone while traveling or gathering information who sparks your imagination and gets you thinking about your options and possibilities. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't feel obligated to take on someone else's responsibilities. You need to focus on your own needs before you consider helping others. Don't let anyone take advantage of your friendliness. You can't buy respect. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Take part in a cultural event. You will be able to improve your lifestyle and ease your stress. Make it a point to spend time with people who motivate you. Emotional matters can be resolved and financial gains made. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Avoid a risky venture. Spend time doing the things that make you happy or that will enable you to be a better person. Anger is a waste of time, but self-improvement will boost your resilience and the desire to be your best. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You are running on empty. Make time to enjoy something that you take for granted, and it will give you a new outlook on life. Nurture relationships, and instead of trying to change people, love them for who they are. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): A day trip that has to do with family, information or doing something you enjoy should be on your agenda. Don't let personal responsibilities bog you down. A partnership will offer you greater freedom and a promising future. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Put more time and effort into your home, family and helping the people you care about the most. Your unique way of doing things will not go unnoticed. A home improvement project looks promising. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You will meet with opposition if you are emotionally evasive or indulgent. Try to do your own thing and let others do as they please. Personal alterations will bring good results and help ward off interference. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Reconnect with people from your past or resurrect an old plan or idea that suits the current economic trends. Don't be afraid to show emotions when dealing with matters concerning relatives. Don't overspend to impress. Be consistent. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Keep busy. Time passes quickly if you do things you enjoy. Family fun or doing something that helps you relax or eases your stress should be scheduled. Don't let the little things get to you. A surprise is heading your way. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Emotions will spin out of control if you don't control your reaction to what others do or say. Protect your image as well as your money and possessions. If someone needs help, offer your time, not your cash. Keep your life simple. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are an entrepreneur and a dreamer. You are creative, unique and comprehensive.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		6	7					
		1		5				
		9			8			
		7				8		
		5	8	1	2	6	3	
6				7				
9		4	5	6	1	3	2	8
	1							4
		8	3	4	9	5	7	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	1	6	9	4	2	3	8	5
2	8	5	6	3	1	7	4	9
4	9	3	5	7	8	1	2	6
3	7	4	1	6	5	8	9	2
9	6	8	3	2	7	4	5	1
5	2	1	4	8	9	6	7	3
6	5	2	7	1	4	9	3	8
1	4	9	8	5	3	2	6	7
8	3	7	2	9	6	5	1	4

Difficulty Level ★★ 1/13

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

ENGINE SOUNDS Solution: 5 letters

M	C	A	P	O	W	E	R	Y	A	W	L	I	A	R
U	O	U	T	E	K	C	O	R	G	O	K	A	R	T
F	M	T	S	R	E	L	B	M	U	R	V	E	R	U
F	B	O	O	T	A	L	O	D	A	S	N	A	F	R
L	U	M	T	R	A	C	T	O	R	E	T	R	R	B
E	S	O	A	A	C	L	T	T	B	S	T	A	E	O
R	T	B	K	C	A	Y	L	I	O	C	E	S	Q	J
E	I	I	E	I	I	P	C	I	O	R	R	P	U	E
Z	O	L	O	N	R	Y	N	L	N	N	H	A	E	T
O	N	E	F	G	C	E	S	E	E	G	D	T	N	S
D	O	S	F	L	R	R	T	N	A	L	O	O	C	E
L	I	E	E	I	A	R	S	O	A	Ⓡ	Ⓤ	Ⓝ	Y	L
L	S	I	S	E	F	A	G	N	I	L	L	I	R	D
U	Y	D	G	A	T	O	Y	T	R	A	I	N	S	I
B	Y	P	A	S	S	R	E	C	N	E	L	I	S	L

©2013 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 1/13

Aircraft, Automobile, Bicycle, Bulldozer, Bypass, Combustion, Coolant, Crane, Diesel, Drilling, Fans, Frequency, Gears, Go-Kart, Idle, Loud, Motorcycle, Muffler, Noisy, Power, Racing, Railway, Rasp, Rear, Rev, Roar, Robot, Rocket, Rumble, Run, Silencers, Siren, Soar, Stalling, Start, Steam, Takeoff, Throttle, Toy Trains, Traction, Tractor, Turbojets

Yesterday's Answer: Dental

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

1 General Manager (Accounting): $1,000-1,800/mo. 5 years of managerial experience required. Must have majored in accounting. 10 years of accounting experience required. Korean writing and speaking fluency required. Email resume to hps@hanmisaipan.com.

1 Cook (Korean cuisine): $6.05/hr. At least 1 year of professional cooking experience in Korean cuisine required. Email resume to wing@hanmisaipan.com.

Job Vacancy Announcement
(12) Carpenter - $6.05/hr.
(5) Plumber - $6.05/hr.
(5) Electrician - $6.05/hr.
(12) Mason - $6.05/hr.
Interested applicants must contact and submit resume to RPCF, INC.
P.O. Box 504549 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel #: 234-9127
Email: brian@pticom.com

Vacancy Announcement

(1) Painter Artist – Atleast 2 yrs.experience. Good level of physical fitness, including the ability to lift, work at heights. Have other building works related skills.

(1) Sales and Marketing Coordinator – Must have atleast 2 years work related experience, hardworking and trustworthy. With valid driving license.

Submit Applications To:
Saipan Apparel Printing, LLC.
Tel. 235-1680

Sherman Consulting, LLC
P.O. Box 520800, San Jose Village, Tinian MP 96952 Tel. (670) 433-2664; Fax (670) 433-4329

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Open Date: Jan 11, 2016
Close Date: Jan 15, 2016

Position: (1) Bookkeeper
Rate: $ 7.50 Per Hour
Qualification: AA Degree or College Graduate (4) yrs experience

Link: http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/43-3031.00

5 Star G Corporation
Job Vacancy Announcement
4 Heavy Equipment Operator
$7.00/hour with additional $1.5/hr for over time.
U.S., Green Card, AED, and CW workers are encouraged to apply.
For more information, please call 285-0478

Auto Marine Inc
has a job opening for
(1) Motor Boat Mechanic
Must be knowledgeable in repairing motor boat engine, overhauling, and boat fiber glassing. At least 3 years work-related experience.
Interested applicants, please call Mr. Adonis Santos at 323-2916 for more information.

Vacancy Announcement
(1)Beautician Assistant/Aid – Atleast High School graduate. Must have a hair and cosmetology skills. Willing to work flexible time.
Submit Applications To:
Pam Pacific Enterprises Corp.
Tel. 235-7270

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) CAD Operator
- Required Bachelor's degree plus 1 year experience.
- Proficiency in AutoCAD 13, Google Sketchup 2013 and Microsoft Office.

Respond to N15 Architects by Email to
admin@n15architects.com

WORLD INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(2) GENERAL MAINTENANCE
Salary Rate: $6.05 per hour
QUALIFICATIONS:
- At least 2–3 years experience in a Commercial Building Maintenance. Preferably in Carpentry and Masonry.
- Full-time with flexible working hours

Please mail your resume to PMB 654 Box 10000 Saipan, MP 96950 or contact our Office at Tel.: (670) 233-1545 between 2:30PM to 9:00PM.

Warehouse for RENT
REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #3 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
235-6527/28 or 285-1317

LOOKING FOR SURROGATES
If you are female between the ages of 21 and 40, have had at least one natural child birth, and are interested in learning more about being a surrogate, please call Evelyn @ 322-0419. Compensation is over $22,000.

JAPAN ENTERPRISES CORP.
DBA CLUB MICRONESIA
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(3) WAITRESS
2-3 years experience as a waitress in a Night Bar or an Entertainment Business.
Other Qualifications:
- At least 21-25 years old with pleasing personality.
- Full Time with flexible working hours.
- Salary: $6.05/hr
- Preferably can speak Japanese language fluently.

Please mail your resume to
P.O. Box 502589, Saipan, MP 96950
or contact our Office at
Tel. (670) 233-1545

JAGUAR LIMITED
DBA: CLUB MERMAID
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(3) WAITRESS
2-3 years experience as a waitress in a Night Bar or an Entertainment Business.
OTHER QUALIFICATIONS:
- At least 21-25 years old with pleasing personality.
- Full Time with flexible working hours.
- Salary: $6.05/hr
- Preferably can speak Japanese language fluently.

PLEASE MAIL YOUR RESUME to PMB 697
Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950
or contact our Office at Tel. (670) 233-1545
between 2:30PM – 9:00PM

JVA for YANO Enterprises, Inc.
Kinpachi Japanese Restaurant

Cook (3): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to provide required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Must be willing to work on flexible hours, shifts, evening, holiday and weekends. Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 6 months to a year experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered.
Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.
Please no phone calls.

NOW LEASING
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NEW 2, 3, and 4 bedroom energy efficient apartments in Saipan.
Lower utility costs up to 70% through solar panels and solar hot water.
OPEN HOUSE • MONDAY-FRIDAY • 9AM - 4PM
For pictures, amenities, and application information visit our website
www.ironwoodhousing.com
or call 670-233-4348. Applications are being accepted Monday - Friday, 8:30a.m. to 5:00p.m. and on Saturday, 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m., at Ironwood Community Center on Middle Road, Gualo Rai.

Vacancy Announcement

(2) Maintenance - Atleast high school graduate . A valid driver's license. Ability to use efficiently various power and hand tools. Knows how to follow oral written instructions and can communicate efficiently and fluently in both witten and oral form.

(1) Auto Mechanic - Must have atleast 2 yrs. work related experience. Excellent diagnostic/ repair skills of vehicle systems. High self motivation.

(1) Househelper - Knowledge in cooking Chinese,Japanese, Thai, Cuisine is a must. Experienced in household chores like cleaning, ironing, gardening, paying bills, and baby sitting. With valid driver's license.

(1) Automotive Body Repairer - Atleast 5 yrs. working experience. Willing to work flexible time and dependable. Hardworking and trustworthy.

Submit Applications To:
AYD Services Inc. Tel. # (670)235-7011

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
CALL 235-NEWS

Looking for a way to tell everyone about your business?
You're looking at it!
Saipan Tribune 235-6397

WHATZIT Solution: It's in the bag

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

Find today's solution in classified section

Spurs win 8th straight in Nets' first game since shake-up

NEW YORK (AP) -- The Spurs are the NBA's pillar of consistency and stability, an organization these Nets could only hope to resemble—on the court and in the front office.

"San Antonio is the gold standard for the NBA," Nets interim coach Tony Brown said.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 25 points and 11 rebounds as the Spurs extended their winning streak to eight with a 106-79 victory Monday night over Brooklyn in the Nets' first game since an organizational shake-up.

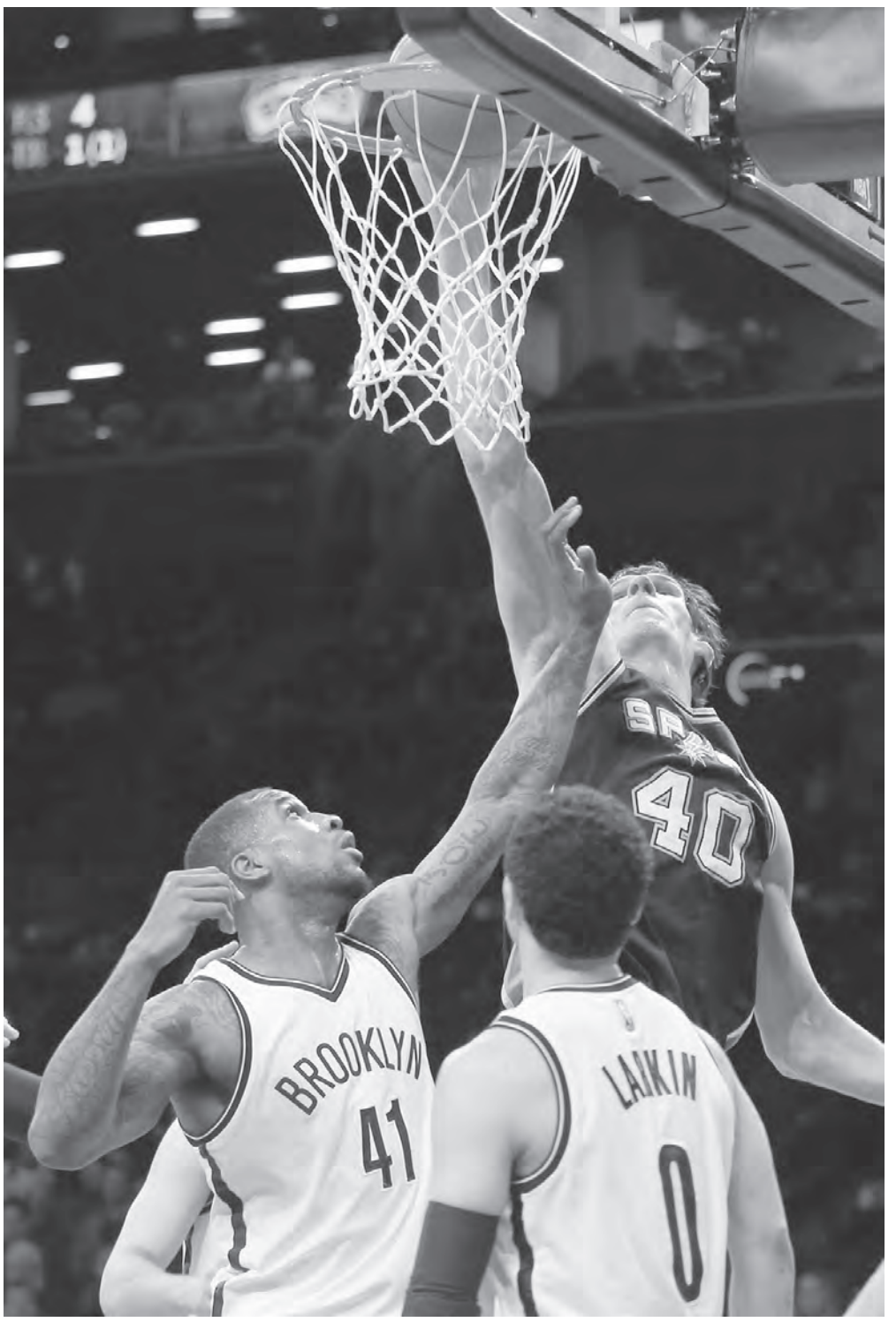
A day after coach Lionel Hollins was fired and general manager Billy King reassigned, the Nets dropped their 10th straight at home and fifth in a row overall.

"We ran into a sledgehammer of a team," Brown said. "They definitely know how to play together and that's something we're going to strive and try to do here."

Kawhi Leonard added 17 points for the Spurs, who go to Detroit on Tuesday before putting their 31-game home winning streak on the line Thursday in a showdown with Cleveland.

The Spurs (33-6) were up seven at halftime before dominating the second half, just as they did in their 102-75 victory over the Nets on Oct. 30. Those are two of their 14 wins by 20 or more points this season, and their leadership under Gregg Popovich and general manager R.C. Buford matters just as much as the contributions of the players.

"It's consistency," Aldridge said. "There's no surprises. You know what you're going to get day in and day out, game in game out, so it just makes it easier to do your job for sure."



AP

San Antonio Spurs center Boban Marjanovic (40) dunks over Brooklyn Nets forward Thomas Robinson (41) and Nets guard Shane Larkin (0 in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Jan. 11, 2016, in New York.

Brook Lopez scored 18 points and Joe Johnson had 16 for the Nets, who haven't won at home in more than a month. Brown moved guards Wayne Ellington and Donald Sloan into the starting lineup, but they combined for just 10 points on 4-of-12 shooting.

The Nets fell to 10-28, hours after owner Mikhail Prokhorov said the team needed a "reset" and that choosing to start it in the middle of the season was an easy decision. But no change could change things against the Spurs, the latest visiting team to win the crowd and the game in Brooklyn.

"You've got to give them a lot of credit first. They're a great, arguably the best team in this league, but you have to stay poised, you have to stick to your game plan," Johnson said.

"We had to do a great job for 48 minutes and obviously in the third quarter they opened it up."

Fans cheered loudest for 7-foot-3 Serbian Boban Marjanovic, who finished with 13 points and was on the floor in the final seconds when a "Go Spurs Go!" chant broke out.

"This is good because if people love you, you are good," Marjanovic said of the cheers, "and I feel great."

Warriors 111, Heat 103

In Oakland, California, Stephen Curry scored 31 points and Draymond Green added 22 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Warriors to their 36th straight regular-season home win.

Klay Thompson added 17 points to help the Warriors (36-2) get halfway to Chicago's record win total of 72 set in 1996-97 three games before the midpoint of the season.

Dwyane Wade scored 20 points and Chris Bosh and Gerald Green added 15 apiece for the Heat, who had won eight of their past 11 games here.

But these Warriors teams are far different and that showed against a resilient Heat team that battled all night but was unable to handle the depth of the Warriors despite the rare off-shooting night from Curry.

Wizards 114, Bulls 100

In Chicago, John Wall had 17 points and 10 assists to help the banged-up Wizards pull away from the Bulls.

Washington had seven players score in double figures in its second straight win after a stretch of five losses in six games. Ramon Sessions had 16 points, and Garrett Temple, Otto Porter Jr. and Nene scored 14 apiece.

The Wizards led by as many as 18 points while playing without key performers Marcin Gortat, Kris Humphries and Bradley Beal. Gortat was scratched with a sore left knee, Humphries missed his fourth straight game with a sore right knee and Beal remains out due to a stress reaction in his lower right leg.

Derrick Rose scored 23 points in the first of four games in five nights for the Bulls. Jimmy Butler had 19 points and seven assists, and Pau Gasol added 15 points and 10 rebounds.

Nets' Prokhorov: easy decision to hit reset button now

NEW YORK (AP)— Mikhail Prokhorov wanted a championship, and the Nets never got close.

Now he wants a reset, and said it was an easy decision to start it now.

"If we look at the team for the time being, it's clear we're doing not the best way," Prokhorov said Monday.

A day after firing coach Lionel Hollins and reassigning general manager Billy King, Prokhorov blamed himself for a win-quick strategy that's left the Nets in one of the NBA's worst situations—then said he hopes to contend for a title next season.

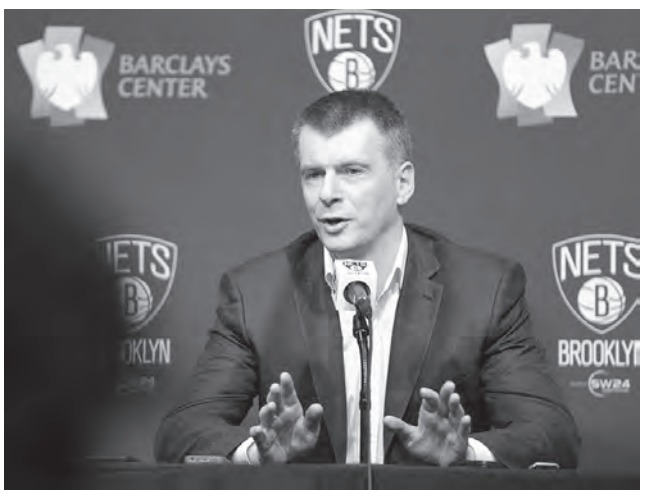
He'll try to do that with new leadership that he hopes will help clarify what kind of team the Nets want to be and what kind of personnel they will need. The Russian billionaire had determined more than a month ago that King and Hollins weren't among them.

"I have to look at the reality and make a change if things are not going in the right direction," Prokhorov said. "That's what we have done. It was just very easy."

The Nets made the playoffs the last three years but are 10-27 entering Monday night's game against San Antonio. Their likely lottery spot will go to Boston as payment from one of King's big trades, and they don't fully control their own first-round pick until 2019.

"Our approach helped us to reach three playoffs in a row but we have failed to go further. And for us it's important to go further," Prokhorov said. "That's why we need a small reset for this year and I hope we'll be back not as a playoff team, as a championship contender. This is my only goal."

He wanted a title within five years of buying the team in 2010, and King was aggressive in trying to build a contender quickly. He acquired Deron Williams, Joe Johnson, Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett in moves that resulted in just one series victory and consistently came at a future cost the Nets are paying now.



AP

Brooklyn Nets owner Mikhail Prokhorov speaks during an NBA basketball news conference in New York, Monday, Jan. 11, 2016.

"I take full responsibility for the state of the team and I think Billy King did his best," Prokhorov said. "Just, we need a fresh look."

King released a statement Monday night thanking Prokhorov and Nets executives, coaches and players.

"My family and I thoroughly loved our experience in New Jersey and here in Brooklyn, and hope fans experience the success they deserve," he said.

Tony Brown is the interim coach and Prokhorov said assistant general manager Frank Zanin will oversee the front office until King's replacement is hired. He offered no timetable for either job - he ideally wants it to be two people - and expects to have a long list of candidates.

Kentucky coach John Calipari, who formerly coached the Nets in New Jersey, could be on it.

"Coach Cal is a great coach but we won't be discussing today on any name because it's the first day of our, like, new approach," Prokhorov said.

Prokhorov has largely been an absentee owner, spending most of his time in Russia focused on his business and political interests. But he vowed to be around Brooklyn more for the time being to lead the search for new leadership, adding he will personally meet all candidates.

He was swayed by the Nets' strengths—the New York market, a state-of-the-art arena and new training facility soon to follow, salary cap space—in thinking a quick turnaround is possible.

"I hope next season, championship contender," he said.

Starting the search now, he said, will allow them to work deliberately in finding the person or people who share his vision.

"I think it's very fair to the fans, to the team," Prokhorov said. "As soon as we have our decision it's better to start earlier than later. So now we have a very good position."

Broncos still smarting from loss to Pittsburgh last month

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—The Denver Broncos are still smarting from their most recent encounter with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

They blew a 17-point lead and lost 34-27 at Pittsburgh on Dec. 20 when Ben Roethlisberger and Antonio Brown capitalized on Denver's dearth of healthy safeties to hook up for a pair of second-half TDs.

The Broncos were without T.J. Ward, Darian Stewart and Omar Bolden that game. Plus, David Bruton Jr. played 75 snaps on a broken right leg and was speared by Steelers center Cody Wallace.

Bruton went on IR with a fractured fibula. He and his teammates were angered that Wallace wasn't suspended like Giants receiver Odell Beckham Jr. was for his helmet-to-helmet hit on the Panthers' Josh Norman that same weekend.

Cornerback Chris Harris Jr. said a 300-pound lineman with a running start spearing an unsuspecting player with his head down was way worse than what the Giants' star receiver did to Carolina's star cornerback.

The Broncos (12-4) promised Wallace would pay the price if they got another shot at the Steelers (11-6).

They have just that this weekend thanks to the way the Cincinnati Bengals imploded with personal fouls in the final minute of their wild-card game against Pittsburgh last weekend.

Back-to-back 15-yard penalties on linebacker Vontaze Burfict and cornerback Adam Jones set up Chris Boswell's 35-yard field goal with 14 seconds left that gave the Steelers a stunning 18-16 win.

There was plenty of talk in the Broncos locker room Monday about keeping their cool. But there was also more chatter about retaliation for Wallace hit on Bruton that drew a flag for unnecessary roughness.

"No, it's not going to be anything as far as cheap or anything," Stewart said in response to a question from The Associated Press.

"We're going to get them between the lines, between the plays, the whistle. So, I mean, he's going to be sore after the game. That's how I see it, man. He come out on a screen, he'd better not come at 2-6. Shoot, I'm cutting him."

The illegal hit on Bruton, "really (ticked) me off last time," Stewart added. "You got me mad right now just thinking about it."

Coach Gary Kubiak said every Saturday he shows his team cutups of clean hits and plays that crossed the line.

"So, we're always talking about those things. But penalties here or there, one play here or there, is the difference in playing another week and not playing at all this time of year," Kubiak said, "and our guys understand that."

Defensive end Malik Jackson, who has been penalized aplenty this season for over-the-line hits, said what he learned from the Bengals' meltdown Saturday night was "you have to keep your composure."

The Broncos promised to do just that.

They also vowed this rematch will be different because they'll have their star-studded secondary intact.

Although Stewart (hamstring) and Harris (shoulder) were the only two Broncos who missed Monday's practice, both said they expect to be back on the field Wednesday and should be at full strength come Sunday.

The Steelers are the only team that topped 30 points on Denver's league-best defense, and Roethlisberger is the only quarterback who threw for 300 yards against the Broncos.

Both Roethlisberger and star receiver Antonio Brown, who burned Denver for 189 yards and two TDs on 16 catches last month, were injured on hard hits from Burfict on Saturday night.

Roethlisberger hurt his right shoulder on a sack, and Brown was knocked cold by an illegal hit in the closing seconds. Combined with Adam Jones' subsequent 15-yard flag, the Steelers got 30 yards closer for Chris Boswell's 35-yard field goal and an 18-16 win.

The Broncos expect to face Roethlisberger on Sunday even if his shoulder is sore: "His legs still work," Stewart said. "So, he'll be able to move around."

The Broncos also expect to see Brown running routes.

"We want those guys to be there," cornerback Aqib Talib said. "If we didn't want them to be there, that means I'd want A.B. to be messed up. That's a good dude, a good family dude. We don't want him to be messed up."

Harris wants another crack at Brown, who ended Harris' streak of 35 games without giving up a touchdown.

"He'll bounce back strong," said cornerback Bradley Roby, adding it will help everyone on defense to have the Broncos' starting safeties back.

"It's going to be huge because the first game we kind of had some communication issues," Roby said.

He vowed to play better this time, too.

"I love revenge games," Roby said. "It brings the best out of me. There's nothing like revenge games."

AP

In this Dec. 20, 2015, file photo, Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Markus Wheaton (11) celebrates with wide receiver Antonio Brown (84) after scoring a touchdown during the second half of an NFL football game against the Denver Broncos, in Pittsburgh.

LA's NFL fans have unified hope, divided loyalties

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The NFL has never been closer to ending its 21-year absence from the city that staged the first Super Bowl and supported several teams in several leagues through several decades of professional football.

Those teams all once played at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, which could see the sport back on its 93-year-old field in August.

Several hundred Rams fans—and a few Raiders and Chargers fans, too—gathered outside the venerable stadium last weekend under slate-gray skies that made for perfect football weather. They threw a pigskin, chanted slogans and looked forward to relief from a two-decade drought.

"We really can't believe it's almost time for this to end," lifelong Rams fan Ray Ochoa said. "It's time. We just want football."

The NFL's owners are expected to decide this week whether any combination of the Rams, Chargers and Raiders will be allowed to move to Los Angeles, finally filling the gaping hole in the sports landscape of the nation's second-largest media market.

But mere days before the meetings in Houston could end a two-decade discussion, nobody is certain what course the owners will choose.

Virtually any combinations of those three teams and two stadium proposals are still possibilities. There are ardent backers for both the Rams' plan for a Hollywood Park stadium and the Chargers' hopes to build a Carson arena to share with the Raiders.

All three teams have history and fan support in the city, and the franchises are eager to capitalize on the theoretically boundless wealth and attention to be found under Hollywood's bright lights.

The owners will consider financial rewards and personal friendships when they make their decision among the three contenders, but it's unclear whether the ability to capture the heart of those L.A. fans will play any role.

If those owners saw the gathering at the Coliseum, they would know the Rams never lost the fan base they abandoned when the late Georgia Frontiere moved her team to St. Louis after the 1994 season, leaving behind 49 years of steadfast support.

"There are many fans who have been waiting and loyal, and they still follow the Rams in St. Louis," said Randy Troy, a longtime fan aligned with the Bring Back the Los Angeles Rams supporters' group.

"Other fans like me follow college football and don't care about the NFL," Troy added. "But when I have the Los Angeles Rams, I care again. There are so many football fans in Los Angeles. The NFL is No. 1. What do you think will happen when the L.A. Rams return here? It's going to blow up."

There's no definite way to tell which team has the most fan support in Los Angeles, but the two that moved after the 1994 season both have strong cases. Most observers think the Chargers are in third place in the race for L.A. fans' hearts and minds even though they're technically the only team born here: Barron Hilton's AFL team played its inaugural season at the Coliseum before relocating to San Diego.

The Rams rather hilariously cited a Twitter poll conducted by an ESPN.com writer as proof of their predominance while arguing for relocation, but their colors still show up regularly at local sporting events.

Anybody who visits a local airport on the morning of a Raiders home game in Oakland will see hundreds of black-clad faithful piling onto one-hour flights to the Bay Area. The outlaw franchise has strong support in every corner of California, which also makes them the least likely to be hurt by missing out on a Los Angeles move.

In truth, fan support for pro football teams is just as spread-out and variegated as the five-county greater Los Angeles area.

Nearly every NFL franchise has support among the roughly 19 million people who have had no home team to cheer for two decades. The Southland is stacked with bars and fan clubs dedicated to multiple franchises—for instance, the Steelers fans at Hollywood's Blue Palms Brewhouse, or the Bills fans who pack Busby's West in Santa Monica.

And it's clear what a Los Angeles move could mean to the brands of the Rams and Chargers, who both have almost no national following. In the most recent Harris poll asking Americans to name their favorite NFL team, the Chargers and Rams tied for 30th place among the 32 franchises.

The Chargers claim they draw 25 percent of their fan base from the Los Angeles area, although San Diegans laugh and wonder about their math. They clearly have a strong core of fan support in Orange County and the Inland Empire, while most football-loving Angelenos also are familiar with Philip Rivers, Antonio Gates and their mates through the Chargers' weekly presence on L.A. television broadcasts, since they're considered the area's de facto home team by the networks.

"But if you tried to do this rally for the Chargers, a dozen people may show up," Troy said at the Coliseum. "The Rams have thousands. The Raiders could be viable in L.A. as well."

Nakayoshi, Dart Daddies battling for Masters crown

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Masters division of the Bud Light-Saipan Electronic Darts Association Winter/Spring 2016 season is turning out to be a two-cornered fight between the Jokers Nakayoshi and the Doro's Dart Daddies.

The Nakayoshi coasted to a 12-3 trouncing of the Doro's Darteros, while the Dart Daddies escaped with a 9-8 decision against the 6JMS Pythons in last week's matches in the six divisions this season held in various bars on the island.

The Jokers-backed squad, after Jeff Barit lost his opening Singles Regular Cricket match against the Darteros' Renato Barros, went on to win nine of the last 11 games to seal the win and foil their opponents' upset bid.

The win hiked the Nakayoshi's record to 64-38 or four wins ahead of the Dart Daddies' 60-42 card. The Pythons are in third with a 52-50 slate, while the Darteros complete the cast of the four-team field with a lowly 28-74 mark.

Barit bounced back from that loss with victories in the Partners 701, with partner K.J. Villagomez, and in the Singles Half-It events against Omar Quindoza. Barit and Villagomez dispatched the Darteros' tandem of Barros and Quindoza.

In the Darteros-Pythons match, the winning team was decided in the Team event as 6JMS' Eric Durano tied the count at 8-8 after beating Doro's Willy Cuesta in the final Singles 501 match.

Pam Ybanez, Jun Olita, Cris Monsanto and Ben Aguon defeated the quartet of Burth Dacumos, Ronald Doria, George Medina and Durano. The rest of the results of last week's games are as follows:

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The Doro's RNV Construction Mixed Nuts, left, and the Jokers Bar & Grill Parakeyu had contrasting results with their campaigns in their respective divisions in the Bud Light-SEDA darts league.

A Division
- Predator 11, No Fear 6
- Shockers 11, Darrty 6
- Sakude 10, Hunters 7
- Snipers 9, Proofers 8

Tuesday B
- Spartans 13, G-Side Shooters 2
- Chamberos 11, Warriors 4
- Shockers 10, Dabarkads 5
- Northern Lights 9, Hot Points 6

C Division
- Puntan I Langit 12, Managaha Boyz 3
- Blue Koi 8, Spartans 7
- C Busters 8, Jump It 7
- Mixed Nuts 8, Just Dart It 7

Fanihi B
- Life After Darts 12, Dragons 3
- Preba Darts 9, Chagi Talo 6
- Dart Vader 8, Mafia II 7
- Fearless 8, Parakeyu 7

Flame Tree B
- Latte Sparts 14, One Shot 1
- Kyodai 10, Nagupu 5
- Ridin'Darrty 10, No Fear 5
- EMTECH 9, Serial Killaz 6

Nationals trade reliever Storen to Blue Jays for OF Revere

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Washington Nationals accommodated reliever Drew Storen on Friday night, trading him to the AL East champion Toronto Blue Jays for outfielder Ben Revere.

The Nationals will also get a player to be named and will send cash to the Blue Jays.

The 28-year-old Storen had sought a deal, having lost his closer role in late July when the Nationals acquired Jonathan Papelbon from Philadelphia.

Storen had converted 29 save chances and had a 1.73 ERA when the Nats got Papelbon. Shifted to an eighth-inning role following that deal, Storen struggled and finished the season with a 3.44 ERA without another save. His season ended in mid-September when he slammed his locker in frustration and broke his right thumb.

Storen was 21-13 with 95 saves and a 3.02 ERA in six major league seasons, all with the Nationals. He had a 1.12 ERA in 65 games in 2014.

For all his success in the Washington bullpen, the right-hander also was tagged with two big blown saves in the playoffs.

Storen failed to close out St. Louis in the ninth inning of the deciding Game 5 in the 2012 NL Division Series, and also let a ninth-inning lead slip away in Game 2 of the 2014 NLDS against San Francisco.

Storen joins a Toronto relief corps that relied on young Roberto Osuna as the main closer last year. At 20, Osuna led the team with 20 saves.

The 27-year-old Revere figures to take over the center field and leadoff job that Denard Span held. Span signed with San Francisco this week as a free agent.

Revere has hit over .300 in each of the past three seasons. He batted a combined .306 for the Phillies and Toronto last year, with a .342 on-base percentage and 31 stolen bases.

The Nationals had hoped to boost their offense from the left side of the plate in the offseason. Coming off a disappointing second-place finish in the NL East, they recently signed free agent second baseman Daniel Murphy—Murphy and Span both bat left-handed.

Revere led the NL with 184 hits in 2014 with the Phillies. In six seasons with Minnesota, Philadelphia and Toronto, he's hit .295 with 176 steals.

WATSON'S

From Page 28

behind Alabama's Derrick Henry and Stanford's Christian McCaffrey in the Heisman Trophy voting, had carried the Tigers (14-1) all season. He broke the Atlantic Coast Conference mark for total yardage held for 13 years by NC State quarterback Philip Rivers.

Even in defeat, Watson passed his toughest test.

"No question, no doubt about it," Clemson coach Dabo Swinney when asked if Watson was the country's best player. "He's special, he really is."

Alabama coach Nick Saban was impressed, too.

"We thought, to be honest with you, we could do a better job against their quarterback," Saban said. "He did a fantastic job in the game."

Watson had two scoring passes to Hunter Renfrow in the opening half, the first coming as he sweetly dropped the ball into his receiver's arms between two Alabama defenders.

Alabama had allowed only 19 points in the opening quarter its first 14 games before giving up two touchdowns to Watson's Tigers.

Watson finished with 405 yards passing, the most any quarterback has hung on the Crimson Tide this year. He also ran for 73 yards.

Watson's had bigger stat showings, his career best coming with 435 yards passing in his first game as a starter last season against North Carolina.

His performance was reminiscent of Vince Young's dramatic effort in leading Texas past USC in the 2006 Rose Bowl for a national title. Young's 467 total yards - 200 rushing, 267 passing - represented a seminal effort for dual-threat QBs and Watson was better. He just didn't bring home the title.

WHAT

From Page 28

TV cameras captured a kind of satisfied, I-got-you grin from Saban on the sideline that doesn't often surface publicly.

And why not? The five-time national champion coach who insisted a couple of days earlier that he's "a very happy person" probably deserved a moment of back-patting after that one. Because it worked.

Boy, did it.

Griffith said Saban asked him if he wanted to give the onside kick a try. "I'm like, 'Yeah, sure,'" he said. "That's it."

Saban told him at the team hotel before the game they'd probably run the play. Griffith said the Tide practices what Saban calls "a pop kick" about once a week.

"I hit it on Saturday," Griffith said. "I hit it real good."

He did it again, when it counted.

Clemson's dynamic quarterback, Deshaun Watson, made sure that didn't end the game even after yet another huge special teams play by Alabama. Kenyan Drake, who's endured a broken arm and leg in his final two seasons, raced 95 yards for a touchdown on a kick return that gave the Tide 17 points in just over a three-minute span.

That pop kick helped the Tide get it rolling with the defense tiring against the constant onslaught from Watson & Co.

"I felt like if we didn't do something or take a chance to change the momentum of the game that we wouldn't have a chance to win," Saban said.

Humphrey said linebacker Dillon Lee told him to "just stay onside and catch the ball.

GUTSY

From Page 28

won its three previous championship game appearances in runaway fashion. This game was an instant classic—a relief for fans who sat through the blowouts that turned the New Year's Six lineup into a dud. It finally broke open on perhaps the boldest call of Saban's career.

"This was a great challenge for us," Saban said.

With 10:34 left in the fourth quarter and Alabama having just tied the game with a short field goal, Saban took a gamble to try to keep the ball away from Watson and the Tigers. He called for an onside kick called Pop Kick from Adam Griffith and Alabama defensive back Marlon Humphrey caught it over the shoulder at midfield.

Tide turned.

"I think that changed the momentum of the game, and our guys finished it," Saban said.

Moments later, Alabama took back the lead. For the second time, Clemson (14-1) lost track of the tight end Howard in coverage and Jake Coker hit him in stride deep for a 51-yard touchdown to make it 31-24 with 9:45 left.

Clemson and Watson proved to be every bit Alabama's equal. The Tigers just kept coming.

Watson led Clemson to a field goal to make it 31-27, and boom! Another Alabama big play. Drake broke free and streaked down the sideline for a 95-yard kickoff return touchdown, diving the last 5 yards to the pylon.

Watson threw his third touchdown pass to make it 38-33 with 4:40 left, and then Alabama went back to its workhorse Heisman Trophy winner. Henry plunged into the end zone for his third touchdown of the game to make it 45-33 with 1:07 left.

"We stand toe-to-toe with everybody in the country," coach Dabo Swinney said. "This program doesn't take a backseat to anybody."

Watson threw another touchdown pass to cap a wild 40-point fourth quarter, but would not get another chance. Clemson's onside kick went out of bounds. Coker took a knee and after a two-year drought that felt like eternity in Tuscaloosa, Alabama was back on top.

After a loss to Ole Miss in mid-September, there were doubters. Saban used them to fuel his team.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	24	15	.615	—
Boston	19	18	.514	4
New York	19	20	.487	5
Brooklyn	10	28	.263	13½
Philadelphia	4	36	.100	20½

Southeast Division

Atlanta	23	15	.605	—
Miami	22	16	.579	1
Orlando	20	18	.526	3
Washington	17	19	.472	5
Charlotte	17	20	.459	5½

Central Division

Cleveland	26	9	.743	—
Chicago	22	14	.611	4½
Indiana	21	16	.568	6
Detroit	21	16	.568	6
Milwaukee	15	24	.385	13

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	33	6	.846	—
Dallas	22	16	.579	10½
Memphis	21	18	.538	12
Houston	19	19	.500	13½
New Orleans	11	25	.306	20½

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	26	12	.684	—
Utah	17	20	.459	8½
Portland	16	24	.400	11
Denver	14	24	.368	12
Minnesota	12	26	.316	14

Pacific Division

Golden State	36	2	.947	—
L.A. Clippers	25	13	.658	11
Sacramento	15	22	.405	20½
Phoenix	13	26	.333	23½
L.A. Lakers	8	31	.205	28½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joeten enters finals; McDonald's stays alive

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

McDonald's avoided elimination, while Joeten marched into the finals after prevailing in Game 2 of their respective semis series in the 2nd JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Joeten closed out its best-of-three semis showdown against Commonwealth Utilities Corp. after walking away with a 90-75 victory, while McDonald's forced a deciding Game 3 following a 75-74 upset versus top seed Tan Holdings.

McClain Achas helped McDonald's extend the short series, as he nailed the go-ahead basket in the closing seconds of Game 2. McClain hit the dagger off a miss by brother Michael and after Elmer Esdrelon's triple put Tan Holdings on top, 74-73.

Esdrelon converted the big trey from the left corner, but after his jumper, other Tan Holdings players celebrated early at the backcourt and forgot to play transition defense quickly.

On the other hand, McDonald's pushed the ball to its frontcourt with Michael driving through the middle against Esdrelon and Gerald Rivera. He lost the ball on his way for a layup, but fortunately McClain was there for the trailer and the putback. The McDonald's big man also drew a foul on Esdrelon and trooped to the line for the bonus shot with 2.5 seconds remaining on the clock.

McClain intentionally missed the free throw, while Rivera failed to control the rebound and instead tapped it to Matt Duenas, who was forced to make a pitch from the backcourt with the ball going out of the baseline as time expired.

McClain was one of the four McDonald's players who finished in double figures in Game 2, as he knocked in 15 markers. Michael led the team with his 25 points, while Gil Gapor and Joe Ayuyu Jr. contributed 10 apiece. Duenas paced Tan Holdings with his 23 markers.

Highly favored to sweep McDonald's after a convincing 83-69 win in Game 1, Tan Holdings started flat in Game 2, allowing the former to take a 23-15 lead. Michael had 12 points in the first period to lift McDonald's to an 8-point lead.

Tan Holdings then forced a deadlock at the end of the second quarter, 37-all, and managed to take a 45-39 advantage heading into the last three minutes of the third before McDonald's closed out with a 15-4 run to regain the upper hand, 54-49.

McDonald went on to lead by as much as 8, 72-64, going into the final two minutes of the match, but it committed several turnovers in the ensuing plays, allowing Tan Holdings to inch in closer.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
McDonald's Joe Ayuyu Jr. pulls up for a running hook shot against Tan Holdings' Elmer Esdrelon during the fourth quarter of Game 2 of their semis series in the JP World caging last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Tan Holdings launched a 7-0 run, capped by Duenas' corner jumper, to move within 1, 71-72, 28.8.8 seconds to go in the game.

Two missed free throws from Michael and a split from Gapor gave McDonald's a precarious 2-point lead, 73-71, which Esdrelon wiped out with his triple. However, McDonald's still had a last say, thanks to McClain's good trailer job.

McDonald's will play the rubber match against Tan Holdings tonight at 6:30pm.

Meanwhile, in the Joeten-CUC tiff, the former got its offensive game going right at the opening frame to set up another easy victory.

Joeten, which cruised to a 96-81 win in Game 1 last Friday, established an early double-digit margin, 24-14, and never looked back to notch the first finals berth.

Again, Dixon Kwon and Sid Quan teamed up in the victory, scoring 20 and 16 points, respectively, while Joeten also got a lift from point guard Ferdie Tobias, who registered 16 markers, too.

With Joeten finishing its semis series, it will have several days of rest before playing in the finals, which will start on Monday and will also be a best-of-three affair.

First Game

Joeten 90 – Kwon 20, Quan 16, Tobias 16, Lauron 12, Camacho 12, Taisague 6, Sambile 5, Rasa 3.

CUC 75 – Manglona 15, Poquiz 12, Santos 12, Nunez 11, Benavente 10, Camacho 4, Masga 3.

Scoring by quarters: 24-14, 50-41, 74-56, 90-75.

Second Game

McDonald's 75 – Mi. Achas 25, Gapor 19, Mc. Achas 15, Ayuyu 10, J. Achas 6.

Tan Holdings 74 – Duenas 22, Pablo 11, Rivera 11, Esdrelon 9, Macoto 7, Nonato 6, Quizon 4, Palacios 2, Matsutaro 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-

Block Magic, Rebels juice-out Rocball foes

Block Magic and Rebels drew first blood in the 33rd season of the Saipan Rocball League.

Block Magic opened its campaign in the new season with a 52-14 juiced-out win against McNasty last week at the outdoor court of the Marianas High School. A juiced-out victory is handed to the team that won the fourth set and led the game.

J.C. Besid led Block Magic's debut win after scoring 8 points off four aces. Block Magic and McNasty combined for 10 aces and three xunks in last week's match. There were also one key and one goal scored in the Block Magic-McNasty tiff.

In the other game last week, Rebels earned a similar easy victory versus MXB, 54-23. Rebels prevailed in the fourth set en route to the juiced-out win.

Nak Nakashima starred for the Rebels, as he finished with 7 points off two goals and one kee. Two more goals were recorded in the Rebels-MXB pairing and the opposing teams also totaled 15 aces and five kees.

Meanwhile, six other teams are entered in this season's competition. Completing the field are the Teachers, Veterans, Nangka Namu, Originals, A-Team, and Roc-Wid-It.

Games in the ongoing league are played during lunch break at the court near the MHS Gymnasium, which is still unavailable after the facility sustained significant damage from Typhoon Soudelor, which hit Saipan last Aug. 2. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

PBT rush in 50m freestyle event

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation — Fina — Proud Member of FINA

Saipan Swim Club and Tsunami Saipan members recorded personal best times one after another in the 50m freestyle event in the 2015-2016 NMISF Open Swim Meet held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Of the 52 swimmers who completed the sprint race, 41 of them earned PBTs with participants in the boys 9 to 10 age group registering the most (8). SSC's Jinnosuke Suzuki had the fastest time in the age group after clocking in at 33.38 seconds to surpass his old PBT (34.64 seconds). Other PBT getters in the division were Tsunami Saipan's Isaiah Aleksenko (33.99 seconds), Hans Xu (35.28), Arman Rechucher (42.41), Sean Gil (43.45), and Jaden Castro (47.32) and SSC's Taiyo Akimaru (34.03) and Mark Jainier Chavez (46.45).

In the boys U8, SSC's Dino Sato also got a PBT (42.97 seconds from 48.05), while teammate Wataru Kadokura and Tsunami Saipan's Aasish duplicated the feat after logging 47.05 and 43.04 seconds, respectively. Five other swimmers joined the 50m freestyle race in this age group for the first time.

In the boys 11 to 12, Lennosuke Suzuki led the PBT getters with his 29.26 seconds (old PBT was 31.18 seconds). Rounding out the list were Tsunami Saipan's Nelson Batallones (33.08 seconds), Juhn Tenorio (34.18), Rentaro Suzuki (43.94), and Dan Illahi (49.08) and SSC's Akira Kadokura (38.25).

In the boys 13 to 14 age group, both Mark Maestro of Tsunami Saipan and SSC's Taiga Sato marked PBTs after posting 30.64 seconds and 31.89 seconds, respectively. Maestro's previous PBT was 30.68, while Taiga's was 33.40 seconds.

Five other swimmers in the boys division logged PBTs and broke the 30-second barrier. Tsunami Saipan's Takumi Sugie was the fastest among the five with his 27.41 seconds, followed by SSC's Kento Akimaru (27.48), Christian Villacrusis (27.54), Caleb Wang (28.85), and Salofi Welch (29.21).

In the girls division, all five who raced in the U8 age group marked PBTs. The list includes SSC's Andrei Kaith Lynn Chavez (46.37 seconds) and her younger sister Julie Anne (56.12) and Tsunami Saipan's Shoko Litulumar (44.02), Maria Batallones (46.72), and Mizuki Suzuki (1:00.24).

In the 9 to 10 age group, seven Tsunami Saipan bets registered PBTs with Ashley Dangol leading the field with her 33.40 seconds. Joining her were teammates Nanaka Watanabe (35.57 seconds), Asaka Litulumar (40.55), Kana Suzuki (42.22), Ayumi Obligacion (45.67), Seiyul Hong (48.18), and Risa Sekiguchi (44.69) and SSC's Ayaka Sato (42.71).

In the 11 to 12 division, Jin Ju Thompson topped the field with her PBT of 33.42 seconds, while teammate Coume Kaga also bagged a PBT (35.86 seconds). Tsunami Saipan' Aika Watanabe was the third swimmer in the group to achieve a PBT (33.52 seconds), while teammate Kathrine Illahi did the same in the 13 to 14 age group after clocking in at 36.24 seconds.

Meanwhile, three of the six swimmers who completed the longest race last weekend—the 1,500m freestyle event—posted PBTs. Kento Akimaru broke the 20-minute mark with his PBT of 19:39.30, while Lennosuke Suzuki and Taiga Sato's PBTs read at 20:56.55 and 21:10.04, respectively.

Thirteen other events were held in last Saturday's meet and results will be reported in *Saipan Tribune* later this week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Tsunami Saipan swimmer competes in the 50m freestyle event in last Saturday's 2015-2016 NMISF Open Swim Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Spurs win 8th straight in Nets' first game since shake-up

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Sports

Joeten enters finals; McDonald's stays alive

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Gutsy play helps Tide beat Clemson for nat'l title

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP COLLEGE FOOTBALL WRITER

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Alabama needed it all to win the toughest national title game it had ever played during the Nick Saban dynasty. All of its power. All of its speed.

Even one gutsy trick.

Derrick Henry, O.J. Howard and Kenyan Drake hit No. 1 Clemson with long touchdowns, and Alabama outlasted the dynamic play of dual-threat quarterback Deshaun Watson to win the College Football Playoff championship 45-40 on Monday night.

The Crimson Tide (14-1)

See GUTSY on Page 26

AP
Alabama's O.J. Howard kisses the championship trophy after the NCAA college football playoff championship game against Clemson Monday, Jan. 11, 2016, in Glendale, Ariz. Alabama won 45-40.

Watson's big night can't lift No. 1 Clemson in 45-40 loss

By PETE IACOBELLI
AP SPORTS WRITER

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Get ready, Heisman. Deshaun Watson's coming for you.

Clemson's sublime sophomore marked himself a clear front runner for college football's top individual prize with a stellar performance on the biggest stage of his career. The only drawback? Watson and the Tigers couldn't pull out a victory, falling to Alabama 45-40 in the national championship game Monday night.

If anyone though Watson would be rattled by Alabama's huge, fast defensive line, they were quickly proven wrong. Watson threw for four touchdowns and accounted for 478 yards of offense, the Tigers topping the Crimson Tide almost everywhere but on the scoreboard.

Watson was about the only one not impressed by his showing.

"At the end of the day I wanted the W," he said. "All the stats don't really matter to me. I just wanted to get the win and do something we hadn't done in 34 years."

It might not be that long before Clemson contends again, especially with Watson back next season.

Watson, who finished third

See WATSON'S on Page 26

AP
Alabama's Rashaan Evans (32) sacks Clemson quarterback Deshaun Watson during the second half of the NCAA college football playoff championship game Monday, Jan. 11, 2016, in Glendale, Ariz.

What made Nick Saban smile? A game-changing onside kick

By JOHN ZENOR
AP SPORTS WRITER

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—No wonder the normally stone-faced Nick Saban was smiling.

The Alabama coach took one of the biggest gambles of his career in the fourth quarter of Monday night's national championship game against Clemson. And it paid off.

He called an onside kick just after Adam Griffith's tying field goal in a pivotal moment of the Crimson Tide's 45-40 win over Clemson. Marlon Humphrey recovered and two plays later Jake Coker hit tight end O.J. Howard for a 51-yard touchdown.

"We weren't playing very well on defense," Saban said. "It was a tie game. I thought we needed to do something that was going to change the momentum of the game. That certainly did."

See WHAT on Page 26

AP
Alabama head coach Nick Saban gets doused after the NCAA college football playoff championship game against Clemson, Monday, Jan. 11, 2016, in Glendale, Ariz. Alabama won 45-40.